

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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Bobby's Dazzler

Perth goes Glory crazy!

- Stergiopoulos signs for Auckland
- U.K. Premier
- Italian Serie A
- + the rest of the action from around the world

**Plus all the
other Finals
games**



SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSSIE & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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*Write to Bruce McAvaney at PO Box Epping, NSW 2121

Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular
football code in their recent Net site poll.

JOEYS OF THE JUNGLE!

AMERICAN SAMOA 0
AUSTRALIA 15
A Goulding 15'; A Doumanis 19', 41',
pen 55', 87'; S McDonald 22', 26', 38';
J Johnson 46'; M Saric 49', 79'; J Di
Iorio 75', 78', 83', 90'
Prince Charles Park,
Nandi, Fiji

The Joeys confirmed the gulf
between Australia and some of
Oceania's minnows with a 15-0
whitewash of American Samoa in the
U/17 qualifier in Fiji.

Di Iorio and McDonald noched
hat-tricks, and midfielder Anthony
Doumanis was also in an attacking
frame of mind, scoring on four
occasions.

Defender Aaron Goulding
opened the scoring for the
Joeys in the 15th minute.
Anthony Doumanis scored four minutes later,
followed by Scott McDonald's hat-trick in the
22nd, 26th and 38th minutes.

The Australians increased their lead to 6-0
four minutes before the half-time whistle.
Doumanis scoring his second goal after a
Mislav Saric corner kick was neatly knocked
down into Doumanis' path by Dylan
MacAllister.

The 6-0 scoreline at the break was enhanced

in the 46th minute as James Johnson
unleashed a thunderbolt 15 yards out from
goal. Saric then scored in the 49th, followed by
a Doumanis penalty for minutes later after Iain
Fyfe was brought down in the box.

The Australians then sat back and conserved
energy in the adverse conditions before Joe di
Iorio opened his account, scoring in the 75th
and 78th minutes.

Saric added another goal one minute later,
di Iorio in the 83rd, Doumanis in the 87th,
with di Iorio completing the scoring rout in
the 90th.

Coach Les Scheinflug said: "Once
again it was a good result for us. We
haven't been put under any pressure
yet during the qualifiers, and at
times it has been frustrating given
the conditions in which we have
had to play."

"Still, the main thing is we
continued to conserve
energy for our up-coming
matches. We have one group match left before
the finals commence, when we will have to
play three matches in five days."

Australia: Jess Kedwell-Vanstratten (gk);
Shane Lockhart (Mark Byrnes 60'), Steve
Laurie, Aaron Goulding, Iain Fyfe, Anthony
Doumanis, James Johnson, Wayne Srooj (Jade
North 46'), Dylan MacAllister, Mislav Saric,
Scott McDonald (Joe Di Iorio 60')

VIDUKA SENT OFF AND FINED

Mark Viduka's rollercoaster ride at
Celtic has taken another turn, this
time he was sent-off for spitting at
an opposition player during the Boys' 2-1
win over Dunfermline.

Less than a week after the disgraceful
behaviour of several fans and players at
Parkhead, Viduka spat on Alex Millar when the
two were involved in a heated exchange
towards the end of the first half.

Celtic tried to have Viduka and Millar shake
hands outside the referee's room at East End
Park after the game but, while the Dunfermline
player accepted the apology, he refused the
handshake and slated the Australian's
behaviour.

Chief executive Allan MacDonald
immediately promised that Viduka would be
fined two weeks' wages — around £18,000 —
and insisted that time was running out for the
indisciplined members of Jozef Venglos' first
team squad.

On Celtic's eighth red card of the season,
MacDonald said: "Whatever the maximum fine
is, he will get it."

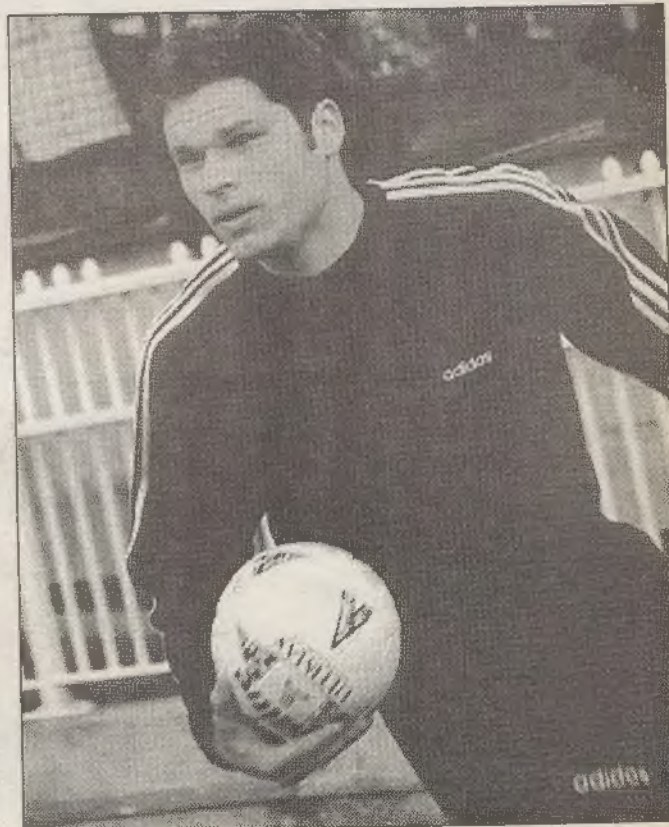
We keep drumming into players the standards
of behaviour we expect and that will continue.

"I will be away for a week but I guarantee that
I will see him as soon as I return. It is not
acceptable and will not be tolerated. One day
these guys will wake up and realise that we
won't put up with this and that they have pushed
us too far." Millar was approached by a Celtic representative
and told that Viduka wished to apologise.

He said: "I couldn't care whether it was genuine or not. It
left me feeling sick and very angry that a fellow professional
could do that to one of his own."

"I couldn't bring myself to shake his hand. He spat at me
and caught me right on the head with it."

At least Viduka will be here for the FIFA game, which is
good because it now looks very doubtful that another great
striker, Zidane, will arrive. See page 24.



*Congratulations to Sydney Olympic's Adrian Cervinski,
whose wife Angela had a baby daughter last Tuesday in
Geelong. Baby Ashley is doing fine from all reports. And the
club's captain Peter Tsekis and wife Denise should become
proud parents around Grand Final time.

The two recently featured in a Soccer Weekly special on
the ladies behind our Ericsson Cup stars!

*Canberra Cosmos star striker Peter Buljan is currently
travelling in Germany, and the Olyroos left Sydney last Sunday
morning for a midweek friendly against Japan. Details next
week.

*Carlton players were part of the Croce-Colosimo/Merino
Club fashion parade last Saturday at the Arts and
Entertainment Centre in Preston.

We should be able to show you what the players looked
like next week, all reports say they stole the show! The
players recently also modelled underwear for Soccer
Australia magazine.

NEWS IN BRIEF ...

*Good to see two young Aussies doing well at West Ham
midfielder Michael Ferrante and striker Richard Garcia, who
were surprisingly left out of the Young Socceroos' squad for
Nigeria 99, played last Friday in the first leg of the the Times
FA Youth Cup against Coventry City at Highfield Road.

Also in the side was the player dubbed 'England's most
talented teenager', Joe Cole.

MAJOR SEMI FINAL SECOND LEG



SYDNEY UNITED

V

SOUTH MELBOURNE



EDENSOR PARK



SUNDAY

MAY 16

KICK OFF

3 PM



Australian News

BRING ON MAN UTD, SAYS ANGE!

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Sydney United v Manchester United, South Melbourne v Bayern Munich, Perth Glory v Boca Juniors. Fantasy? No, these three games could become reality at the inaugural FIFA World Club Challenge, another tournament added by the governing body to an already overcrowded calendar.

All six teams vying for this year's Ericsson Cup have an extra incentive.

The winner will play in the Oceania Football Confederation qualifiers and, if successful there, would be off to face some of the giants of world football.

Unlike the World Cup, the winner of these qualifiers will be guaranteed a direct passage into the tournament, without having to go through Asia or South America.

The FIFA World Club Challenge, scheduled for early January 2000, brings together eight teams from around the globe.

The champions of the Ericsson Cup will be one of them, providing they can get past the best Oceania has to offer first.

The qualifiers are set down for the end of October in Fiji and it is likely that all 12 (American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga and Vanuatu) members of Oceania will send their champion club.

And with the Australian club almost certain to progress, they will then have the chance to play the champions from Europe (either Manchester United or Bayern Munich), Asia, Africa, South America, North and Central America, the winner of the Toyota Cup (winner of UEFA Champions League v South American Libertadores Cup winner) plus the champion team from the host nation.

The host country is to be announced at the end of the month with Mexico, United States, Brazil, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, China, Turkey and Tahiti all in the running.

South Melbourne, last year's champions and favourites to retain their crown, are understandably excited about the tournament.

Coach Ange Postecoglou said it was "a huge incentive" for the clubs in the finals series but added that he hasn't given the competition much thought.

"I haven't thought about it all to be honest. But it's the kind of thing that when you do win the

championship, it'll be the first thing you'll think of, having something to get about excited about further down the track," said Postecoglou.

"To think an Australian club is going to get the opportunity to play in a tournament like that is pretty unbelievable.

Postecoglou went to say that the prospect of South facing someone like Manchester United wouldn't be a frightening one but would be "a hell of a challenge.

"I think it'd be pretty exciting. It would be an interesting exercise, I wouldn't find it daunting. I'd



Ange Postecoglou ... 'It's a huge incentive.'

actually look forward to the challenge."

Olyroo defender Con Blatsis was more sanguine about the competition but did say, "We'd be basically playing against the rest of the world, it'd be a great experience for all of us.

"I don't think that the opportunity to play in this is pushing us to win it though, it's just the same as before, we're playing to win the championship, this is just a bonus. It's not that we're thinking that we need to win the championship just because of this."

Blatsis did admit that he had thought of the magnitude of the competition.

"I've thought about it, the players have spoken about it. If it happens and we do win, it's just a bonus."

'STERGMANIA' HITS NEW ZEALAND!

New club the Auckland Kings has signed Carlton midfielder Marcus Stergiopoulos. They have also finalised a five year licence agreement with Soccer Australia to participate in the Ericsson Cup, the first club to have such a licence.

Upon his return, the voluble 'Sterg' pronounced himself very happy with last weekend in New Zealand. "I am proud to say I am a King!"

He spent the weekend with the club's directors and coach, as well as fielding a large amount of media.

"I spent an hour with Wynton (Wynton Rufer, Kings coach) on a radio show with their equivalent of John Laws. We took talkback from callers and the buzz from the fans is amazing.

"They have already sold-out their first home game at the North Harbour Stadium, which holds 25,000. I also

did interviews on TV1 and TV3.

"The club certainly know how to look after their players, even though they did not recognise me with my dyed blond hair at Auckland airport!"

"Auckland itself is beautiful, with a little bit of Sydney and Melbourne it is very scenic and I look forward to bringing my girlfriend Janene with me on July 15," he said from Melbourne airport yesterday.

A five year sponsorship agreement has been secured with a major corporate entity, details of which will be supplied in the near future.

The only possible glitches for the club centre on FIFA officially ratifying the decision to let them play NSL, and the Sydney Kings basketball, who claim copyright on the Kings' name.

"See the full Marcus Stergiopoulos interview on page etc.

Mark Byrnes (The Joeys) CEMENT SPEAKS!

Full Name: Mark John Byrnes
Nick Name: Cement
Age: 17
D-O-B: 08-02-82
Club: NSW Institute
Born: Sydney, Australia
Seasons with Club: 2
Position: Stopper
Eyes: Brown
Height: 181cm
Weight: 78kg
Favourite OS Player: Paolo Maldini
Favourite OS Team: Aston Villa
Most Admired Aussie (local): Slater
Most Admired Aussie (OS): Okon
Biggest Achievement to Date: Making the Young Socceroos & Joeys Squads
Ambition: To be the best player possible
Words of Advice: Reach for your goals and don't give up.



KEEPERS CHATLINE

Contrary to popular belief, keepers are actually quite intelligent, well-spoken and have a great deal of perspicacity! Six of Australia's best spoke with Soccer Australia about the Ericsson Cup Finals and life as a gloveman.

Q: What is the best strikeforce you have faced this season?

Tony Franken (pictured): "The deadly assassins at South Melbourne."

Jason Petkovic: "Each strikeforce is equally dangerous on any given day. That is why we have to give respect to every attacker in their own right."

Ante Covic: "The strikeforce at training each week!"

Paul Henderson: "I would have to say South Melbourne. Brisbane put five past me but I still think South Melbourne has the most potent strikers."

Michael Petkovic: "It's hard to say, as they are all capable of scoring goals."

Mike Gibson: "Perth put four past me — need I say more."

Q: Are you confident playing behind your defensive line-up?

TF: "Yes."

JP: "Never confident! They are as likely to score (own goal) as the opposition — only joking fellas!"

AC: "Absolutely. I think our defence is the best in the league!"

PH: "Yes I am. Arnie has adapted very well to sweeper role and I think Mark Rudan has been one of the best players in the competition. Guys like Matt Bingley, Paul Bilokapic and Phil Moss have also done a good job, which makes my job easier."

MP: "Definitely, we have got one of the best defensive records in the league, and that speaks for itself."

MG: "Yes, the boys making up the back line are very dependable."

Q: Is there any extra pressure placed on you during the Finals Series?

TF: "No, I treat the finals as any other normal match."

JP: "Very much so. Finals matches are usually decided by one goal, so if you make a mistake it can cost you dearly."

AC: "Of course there is added pressure, but only because the stakes are much higher."

PH: "Yes, I think there is added pressure on every player. The competition has stepped up a level so there is more pressure all round."

MP: "Yes, because everyone expects us to win back-to-back Championships."

Q: Do you ever get nervous during a game?

TF: "I get anxious pre-match, but never nervous."

JP: "No not usually, maybe sometimes before the game. I can't wait for the game to start."

AC: "I wouldn't be human if I didn't get nervous."

JP: "I get nervous before the games, but once the game has started I don't even think about nerves. Playing in goals I have to be talking the whole game and on my toes, so there is no time to think nerves."

MP: "I tend to get a bit nervous during the game, but not always."

MG: "No, I play it as it comes."

Q: How pleased are you with your form this season?

TF: "I am satisfied with my form, especially as I have been competing with Danny for the number one spot all season."

JP: "I started slowly, but have got better as the season has progressed."

AC: "I am happier with my form of recent weeks, and hopefully I can keep it up throughout the Finals."

PH: "I have been happy with my form. I have been able to play every game and keep two very good and experienced players in Peter Blazincic and John Perosh in the youth team."

MP: "I'm very happy, at the beginning of the season the goal was to have the best defensive record in the league and we have achieved that."

MG: "Overall I am pleased with my form since coming into the line-up."

Australian News

MUNRO THE NEW MAN AT CARLTON

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Stuart Munro was yesterday named as the new coach of Carlton Soccer Club. Munro takes over from Eddie Krncevic sacked last week after last season's runners-up finished in the lower reaches of the table.

Krncevic lost his job after a disastrous second half of the season when they took seven out of a possible 42 points including eight straight losses to finish the campaign.

Munro comes after a season with Gippsland Falcons, his first coaching job after playing the previous year with Sydney United.

A player with bags of playing experience in Britain where he played for Blackburn Rovers and, most notably, Scottish giants Rangers where he made over 200 appearances.

He got the nod over former NSL championship winner Ian Dobson, currently coaching Green Gully Cavaliers in the Victorian Premier League.

Munro's contract with the Falcons ends this month and said that this was an exciting opportunity.

"It's the next step for me in my coaching career, I had to think long and hard about it (taking Carlton job)," said Munro.

"The question mark over the Falcons' future didn't really come into it, this was a professional decision."

Munro starts with the Blues on the 1st of June and he is looking forward to working with the fully professional squad.

"That's another thing that came into it. Having the chance to work with a full-time squad is something that's important to me. I'm going to have some great resources.

"It's going to make it easier (having full-time squad), but then the expectations are raised.

"It was different with Gippsland but the new people here have shown that they won't accept failure so there will be pressure there but nothing different that I haven't experienced before as a player."

Fab Incantalupo will stay on as assistant and Munro said that he will be looking to bring some new players in.

"There's a good squad there, but it hasn't got a lot of depth. Eddie (Krncevic) was saying toward the end of the season that they were lacking a

couple more experienced players.

"There's some good young kids there and I think that we'll have to try and get some players with a bit more experience.

"Last year they started the season well but I think they lost key players at the wrong time, whether it be for trials overseas or into national squads.

"While I'd never stand in the way of anyone who'd wants to go overseas, I think there is a time and a place for it and I believe it should be at the end or beginning of a season."

Pre-season training begins at Carlton on the 1st of July and Munro is hoping to speak to the players before it begins.

Sydney United coach David Mitchell and former Aberdeen captain and manager Alex Miller were also in the frame for the job.



Mitchell told the media on Sunday at Bob Jane Stadium that while he had been approached by someone from Carlton, he wouldn't be taking the job.

"I'm not going to move from Sydney, I've already got a job," said Mitchell.

And Miller, who is on the Scottish national team's coaching staff, was believed to be asking more than the Blues could afford.

Speaking of filling positions, Aussie supergroup INXS will play at the FIFA World All-Stars game, reports Aidan Ormond.

The band, who were fronted by Michael Hutchence before his untimely demise, will have a new singer in place for the big Soccer Show at the Stadium Australia. Those in the frame include Terence Trent Darby (The Hardline according to), Jon Stevens (ex-Noiseworks) and ex-Baby Animals Suzie De Marchi.

David Mitchell, although linked to every available job going at the moment, has not been mentioned regarding the vacant position with the band.



Stuart Munro ... new Blues coach.

UTS HOPEFUL OF CONTINUED SPONSORSHIP

By Ashley Hyne and Elizabeth Napoli

The University of Technology's (UTS) Student Union is confident that the government's controversial voluntary student union vote will not end their famous sponsorship of Sydney Olympic.

The legislation is aimed at curbing the power of wayward Student Representative Councils and political associations from misappropriating student funds.

Union chief, Michael Georgeson, is confident that the bill won't affect the UTS's dealings.

If it is passed before June 30th (after which the democrats assume control in the senate) Georgeson believes it will be significantly diluted so as not to impinge on the sponsored partnership with Olympic.

"The government needs to get it through the Senate but that's hard with Mal Colston and Brian Harradine presently holding the balance of power, the said.

"After June 30 it's likely that the Democrats will assume control in the Senate and they don't really support the bill.

"My feeling is that if the bill is passed it will be watered down so as to allow us to do what we are doing."

It had been feared that such a passage would end an association with Olympic that has been a feature of the NSL since 1995.

The present two year agreement was signed just days before the opening match of the 1998/99 season in which Olympic gained maximum media attention when they beat Northern Spirit in front of a record crowd of 18,000 people.

Given the potential for growth in Australian soccer

the sponsorship of the Olympic shirt is, for a national sporting franchise, considered very cost effective.

Frank Martin, general manager of Sydney Olympic, explained that the sponsorship has led to greater exposure for UTS than before and that the sponsorship was renewed because both parties were happy with the previous marketing deal.

If the vote is passed in its present format than the union will be restricted in its financial dealings, threatening sporting partnerships with as many as 60 different sporting organisations.

"It would certainly effect the opportunity we have for sponsoring clubs. It would have a massive effect on our sponsorship of Olympic and the (old Haberfield) UTS Rowing Club," Michael Georgeson added.

UTS originally organised an agreement with the Haberfield Rowing Club in 1992 eventually taking over the running of the club.

They now support the club so handsomely that this sees them assuming costs and fees for national coaches.

"If our activities collapse there it will adversely affect Australia's performance at the 2000 Games simply because some rowers won't be able to represent the country."

The sponsorship of Olympic covers a range of benefits for the UTS's 24,000 students, some of which include free admission to all home games, as well as the assisted coaching of the UTS's soccer club.

"It benefits students and what we think is that by allying ourselves to Olympic we are guaranteeing that our name gets more widely known," said Mr Georgeson.

WE WILL BE THERE!

Yes that is right, our man Daryl Katz will be at the Man Utd v Bayern Champions League Final at the Nou Camp in Barcelona this month.

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Jeff Hopkins Pic by Melbin.

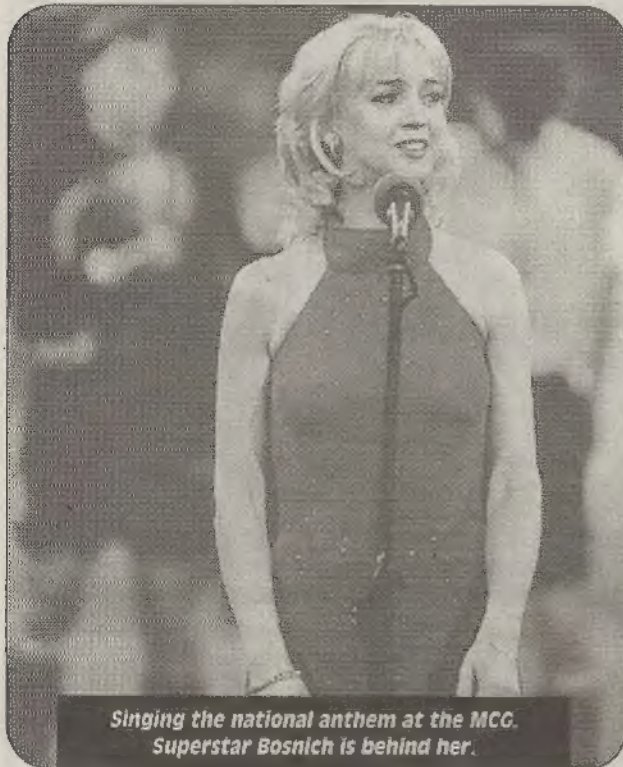
Congratulations to Jeff Hopkins (above), winning the Gippsland Falcons Most Valuable player award for 98/99.

Australian Features

JANE'S OUR GIRL FOR THE BIG SOCCER SHOWS!

By Aidan Ormond

Okay, hands up. Who had tears in their eyes when they heard and saw Jane Scali sing the national anthem at the MCG on 'that day' in November 1997? Judging from the feedback we received, nearly all of Australia's soccer community was



Singing the national anthem at the MCG. Superstar Bosnich is behind her.

reduced to a sobbing patriotic mess when Scali emotively powered her way through Advance Australia Fair on that fateful of nights.

It was one of those moments when being an Australian soccer fan was all that mattered — it seemed that for once we had arrived at a sport, and Scali's rousing rendition captured the moment perfectly.

Well, she's back! The Mo award-winning singer/dancer/actress, and regular on Roy and H.G.'s Club Buggery, will be part of the FIFA spectacular on June 12 at Stadium Australia.

For Scali, however, the significance of singing a national anthem at the Australia and Iran World Cup match only hit home once she arrived at the ground.

"I am telling you Aidan," she says, "if you look closely at the photo, I had the look of trepidation. It was first time I had played in front of such a huge sports event and crowd."

"Honest to God, if I had thought of the whole world-wide audience I don't think I could have gone on," she recalls laughing.

"It was all such a blur. The producer Kerrie Hayes came up to me after and gave me a big hug, and that was my first moment of consciousness!"

"I was shaking like a leaf as she led me off. And it wasn't easy, because of the delay from the crowd who were also singing."

Scali also recalls the Iranian team management's stand-offish approach to her, something she is not used to: "I remember on the day that I was

instructed by the Iranian team manager not to talk to their players. I thought it was very strange. Perhaps a religious thing. I should have spoken to them, maybe it would have put them off and we could have qualified!" she adds shrieking with delight.

Scali is well-schooled in the soccer tradition, her husband, the Irish born comedian-impressionist Paul Martell, is a big Manchester United fan. "After having lived with a Man Utd fan how could I not know about soccer!"

In fact, her husband's brother played for Northern Ireland schoolboys with none other than George Best.

As for that game against Iran and the singer found it absorbing but ultimately unfair ("for God's sake where did we go wrong. I had been on such a high").

But now that she has tasted the big time soccer event, she can't get enough.

"Nothing beats working live, and when there is a huge crowd, you get caught up in the excitement, the feeling and emotion of the fans, like at the MCG for that game. This FIFA All-Stars looks like it will be just as special."

As for June 12 itself, Scali has got only soccer on the brain as she prepares her songs with other Australian performers such as Kelly Abbey and David Dixon: "So Bossnich and I will be reunited? Can't wait!"



Jane Scali ... The award-winning singer/entertainer will be at the FIFA game as part of a large entertainment package.

*Jane Scali will be performing in the Australian production of Smokey Joe's Cafe later this year at Star City Casino in Sydney, and is currently in the Greek Isles performing corporate gigs.

'STERG': THE KING OF GIPPSLAND

By Aidan Ormond

If Marcus Stergiopoulos played AFL or Rugby League he would be a huge star. Why? Because he possesses those much sought after commodities: charisma and talent.

And in Stergiopoulos' case, his charm is an unusual amalgam of homespun country goodness coupled with a fey inner-city rock chic. He even has a model girlfriend (but more about modelling later).

The hard-running midfielder has had a varied career, leaving Australia for Bradford City aged 15, spending four years there

before a brief spell in Brunei, followed by four years at Gippsland Falcons. His NSL career then moved to new club Carlton for a couple of seasons before his biggest move to date, joining the Auckland Kings last weekend.

Not bad for a boy from Gippsland in country Victoria who, the night before games, would read a prayer book, and was as good at cricket as he was at the World Game.

These days his role model status, particularly with country children, is something that gives 'Sterg' a big high.

"If one child," he explains in a croaky voice courtesy of an end of season six days

on the Gold Coast "can say 'if Marcus can do it then so can I' then that is a great buzz for me."

But the tattoos, dyed blond hair and navel piercing must be off-putting to some parents, yet maybe it is all part of the appeal?

"You know, some parents say, in a nice way, don't show them your tattoos because they all want one now. And for goodness sake not the navel ring!"

He even rides a motorbike, so when I suggest he could be the Fonzie of Australian Soccer he laughs uproariously and suggests it is not too far from the truth.

"He is very natural with kids, he doesn't speak down to them. He is sensitive and they seem to love him," says his mum ("just call me Sterg too!") from her home in Sale.

Growing up in the country with two older brothers was perfect for the energetic kid who played all sports well. Yet if he was to make in soccer, he had to leave. At 15 he left for Bradford.

"When he left we knew he was chasing his dream. It was all he thought about, making it as a soccer star," adds his English born mother (his father is from Greece).

As for the traditional notion of the modern day sportsperson and the media, he has definite views on this.

"When you hear some sports people they are so boring and don't really say

anything interesting, you think 'I don't want to hear this shit'. My mum always told me to be honest and be myself. That is why when I do media I just be me. I guess it's the Gemini in me."

"I am a lover of all things and all creatures and characters, I love speed, I ride a jet ski and of course the motorbike, and would consider myself a water baby. I have a dark side after we lose mind you."

Speaking of dark sides, Stergiopoulos was not impressed with some of the aspects of the Carlton set-up, particularly the pitch.

"It would have been safer to play on bitumen," he says ruefully. "It was an accident waiting to happen. Even where we trained was sub-standard, and our intensity would drop as a result."

"We practically had to get a letter from the minister to let us train on the main park, so any home ground advantage was lost!"

He was also unhappy with the sacking of coach Eddie Krncevic but declined to



Marcus Stergiopoulos ... new signing for Auckland.

comment further on the club and the way it was run by its management.

Last weekend he was supposed to be part of a fashion parade with some of his Carlton friends in Melbourne — however his trip to Auckland to meet his new club took precedence.

The Kiwis now have the perfect man to promote their fledgling team in our NSL, they are going to love this great Aussie character from country Victoria who is living his boyhood soccer dreams.



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Australian Features

A DAY IN THE LIFE ...

FRANK FARINA

Last Sunday was an exciting day for Marconi coach Frank Farina. Coaching against his mate and rival Arnie in the highly-charged Sydney Finals derby. Soccer Weekly's Bonnie Mersiades spent the day with him ...

Earlier this season, we looked at what an Ericsson Cup player and an Ericsson Cup television commentator get up to in preparing for match day, when we spoke with Brisbane's Chay Hews, and ABC TV's Alan Hunter.

We're continuing the series by looking at how an NSL coach copes with a big game match-day, by talking to Frank Farina.

"Anyone who has young kids knows that it's impossible to sleep in on a weekend! They seem to manage it on a week day, but every Saturday and Sunday they're in the bedroom before sunrise."

Frank Farina's 'sudden death' elimination final day starts early.

Of course, being this particular Sunday — Mother's Day — Frankie took the hint from his children, Jordan, 7, and Tyler, 3, and made a cup of tea for his wife, Julie.

"I nearly always bring her a cup of tea in bed; her Mother's Day present was to let her sleep in afterwards!" the Marconi coach explains.

"Every Sunday, it's a treat for the kids — and for Julie and me — to go to the local shops and have some morning coffee. Today was no exception. While we had a coffee, Tyler had her usual milk shake and Jordan had a bacon and egg toasted sandwich with BBQ sauce — don't forget the BBQ sauce — and juice. Healthy stuff."

"I enjoy doing family things like this before a game, because it takes my mind off it. When you're with kids, you've got to concentrate on them and give them attention."

A recurring theme for the 34 year old who played 68 games with the Socceroos, including in three World Cup campaigns

and the 1988 Seoul Olympics: in his book *My World is Round*, Farina described having children as "the most wonderful thing".

But what if he had made the World Cup finals?

"You can't compare the two," said Farina.

"In football, it's my greatest regret, and it's a regret I share with a whole generation of players who I played alongside."

"I believe one of my responsibilities now, as an NSL coach, is to do my part in ensuring that talented players are noticed and nurtured and developed to the point where they will help get us to the World Cup one day."

"But all I'm interested in today is our big game."

Farina's Marconi and his opponents, Northern Spirit, have already established a rivalry which is becoming a sporting epic. Borne of the respective Board Rooms — with Club Marconi President,

Tony Labbozzetta in one corner, and former protégé, Northern Spirit's Remo Nogarotto, in the other — it has taken on new proportions after the four meetings the teams have had this season.

In the regular season, Northern Spirit unceremoniously whitewashed Marconi at their first meeting at North Sydney Oval in January, while Marconi had a 1-0 win in the last home-and-away round in a tough match.

The first semi-final saw Northern Spirit fired up by rugby league coach, Phil Gould in the dressing room, for a 0-0 draw; while Sunday's final elimination match ended up with Marconi getting home 2-1 victors.

All matches attracted capacity crowds.

"This sort of thing is great for football. Local derbies were always huge when I played in Brugge in particular. Nothing fires the passion and pride of supporters quite as much as cross-town rivals," said Farina.

"The different demographics of the two clubs give it that added edge."

Farina has arranged a Mother's Day lunch for Julie, along with his sister Julie and her husband, Ralph, at Club Marconi's Elettra Restaurant — one of several eating places at Club Marconi.

"Elettra was the ship that Marconi was on when he turned on the lights of the Sydney Town Hall," Farina explains.

Farina leaves his luncheon companions around 2.30pm — with "good luck" wishes, handshakes and kisses all-round as he strides out of the packed restaurant — to join Sydney Olympic's coach, Branko Culina, in the outside broadcast van parked at Marconi Stadium to watch the live 'feed' of the South Melbourne V. Sydney United game from Melbourne's Bob Jane Stadium.

An obviously prescient Farina says that he likes to keep up with how other teams are playing as "... we'll be meeting one of them soon."

After half-time in that game, he makes his way to the Marconi dressing room, names the team, reminds them of points they've covered during talking and training sessions, reviews set pieces and tells them to get ready to go out for the warm-up at 4.25pm.

He usually decides who's in the starting line-up and on the bench the night before.

"My quality thinking time is in the car by myself. The long drive between the Club and home doesn't bother me, because it's my decision-making time; my time to think and catch up with people on the 'phone if I need to."

"Of course, for a game like this, I also had to wait and see who was fit to play because of the injury toll from last week's game. You can never be 100% sure of these things, but I was sweating on a few fitness tests during the week, and hoping they'd pull through!"

Brad Maloney has now been out for three weeks, while Pan Keun Kim and Christian Care were injured from the previous week's battle with Northern Spirit.

While his players get rubbed, strapped, pummelled, prodded and dressed in their beauty-sash strip, the coach slips out for a cup of coffee in the Players' Room (a separate place to the dressing room), and talks over with the conditioner what he wants done in the on-field warm-up, as well as just



Farina during the year he brought the Grand Final to Queensland. Can he do the same at Bossley Park?

going over possible game situations.

As he's named himself on the five-player bench allowed in finals, Farina is more or less kitted-up and forsakes his customary second cup of coffee, but not his 'security blanket'.

He dips into a large bucket of lollies to extract a pocketful of lime and lemon chewie things, makes his way back to the dressing room and tells a few jokes to lighten the nerves and help relax the players.

Farina doesn't seriously think his jokes are funny.

"I know they're pretty bad, but I just can't help myself!" he said. So bad, in fact, that we can't share them with you.

He admits he is also nervous.

"Possibly I'm more nervous than when I played regularly. As a coach, it's out of your hands once the players are on the field. When you're playing, you can still have an input and an impact."

Out on the park, Farina takes up his customary position leaning against the left upright of the dugout, looking very cosy in his Marconi tracksuit and all-weather jacket — and chewing the lime and lemon 'things'.

"I don't know about cosy, but I feel comfortable leaning against the post."

Marconi goes into the break with a late first half goal. He pushes the positives in his half-time talk.

He describes it as an "ideal" situation.

"I make sure they're okay. If they need reassurance, I try to give it to them. If they need pumping up, I do so. If I'm not happy with how they're performing, I won't spare them, but I still try to remain positive without demoralising them."

After the game, he joins his players in congratulating the Northern Spirit players and thanking the large crowd before having some moments alone with his team in the dressing room.

"I always congratulate the players after a

game if they've given 100%. They won't get anything bad from me as long as they put-in, but if they don't try, I just can't accept it."

With another game next Saturday against Perth Glory at the WACA, Farina also makes sure they're okay physically before facing the large media throng for comments, half a plastic glass of light beer in his hand.

He has run out of lime and lemon chewie things, his nails are bitten right down, his hair is looking thick and windblown, his eyes are wide with adrenalin.

"I'm gonna die young I think," he tells the media. "I won't see 40 if all games are like that."

He talks about being pleased with the victory, taking each week as it comes and describes next week's fixture against Perth in Perth as "a big ask".

"One thing is for sure: I know the players in this Club will just keep working and trying their heart out. That's what they're like."

You get the sense that perhaps a bit of Frankie Farina — the player — has rubbed off on the Marconi team.

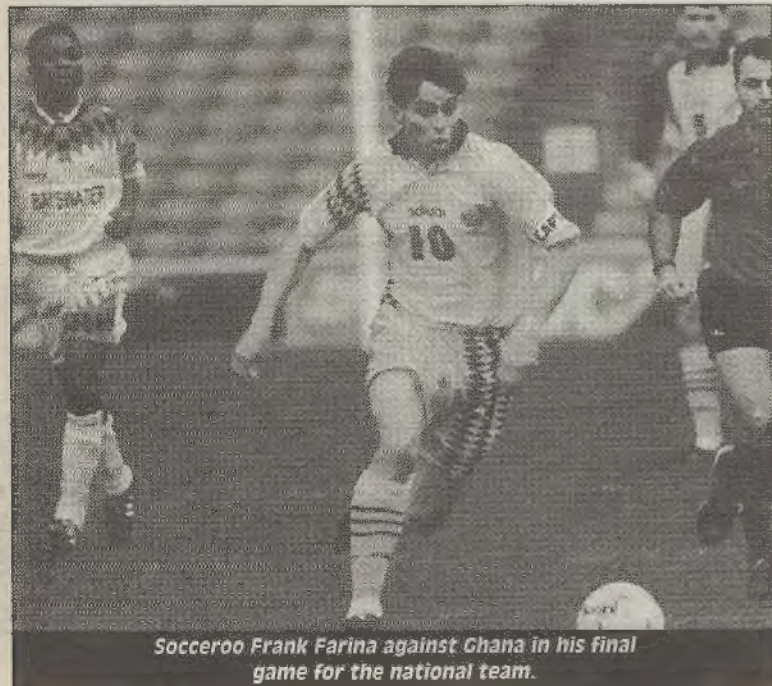
You also get the sense that finals time and Farina go quite well together, and he sees one parallel with his Brisbane Strikers experience of two years ago.

"We were better off then because we finished the season 2nd in Brisbane and had the double chance. However, the experts wrote-off Brisbane that year, and the same people wrote off Marconi this year."

After a meal with the team, and a quiet drink with club officials back in the office, Farina heads home.

"It's been a long day and I'm exhausted — but I know the kids will be full of life and thrilled with the win. It doesn't matter how tired I feel, I've got to give them a bit of time when I get home."

All in a day's work.



Socceroo Frank Farina against Ghana in his final game for the national team.

Australian Features

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP?

Although maybe not as evident in the highest level of soccer in this country (one can only hope this is so!), the 'snap' mentality seems to be very prevalent at the local senior and teenage junior levels.

What I am referring to is the thoughts that certain soccer players have that when they play the game, part of their game is to 'snap' the opposition.

And even some coaches have this mentality as well. I am going to scare a few people now and say that there is nothing wrong with this mentality!!

But let me be clear. The reason I say this is because some people's perception of what 'to snap' means is to make a good, clean, hard tackle that brings the opposition to the ground and wins the ball.

As long as this is within the rules and spirit of the game, I say again that there is no problem with it.

However, it is when the 'snap' thoughts and behaviours refer to intentionally desiring to injure the opposition, or attempting to win the ball through intentional fouls, that this is definitely not a desired mentality for the good of the game.

And what I have just explained is the main problem. People have different perceptions of what 'snap' means.

In fact, people have different perceptions of almost everything! To one player, 'snap' may produce a totally different vision and meaning in their mind to that of the player next to them.

I suppose that before I say that the 'snap' — injure with intent' attitude is the wrong attitude to have, it would be wise to explain why I make such a value statement. There a number of

reasons. A person with this kind of attitude is less likely to be focused on performing well during a game.

Focus is lost on improving their ball skills, or tactical knowledge, and a greater focus is on showing aggression towards the opposition in some way. Subsequently, their performance and that of their team suffers.

Secondly, if the players of the opposition believe that a player is intentionally attempting to injure them, many believe that revenge is the best policy. The opposition may 'snap' back at the team which on most occasions leads to worse performance by both

The idea of 'getting stuck in' is looked at by sports psychologist Kieran Morrow

and deliberate fouls.

After the player was sent off twice in consecutive games, an attempt was made to explain to the player the difference between the two snap mentalities.

Luckily, the player's thoughts before the games and a self report of his rating of his own performance during the game had been tracked.

His thoughts showed that when he held feelings of aggressiveness towards others before playing, he was likely to play poorly. Thus, the coach was able to show the player how this mentality was affecting his performance directly on the field.

Through discussion with the players on the team, it was brought to his attention that when the players

on favourably by the coach and his teammates.

There are a number of ways to ensure that the 'snap mentality' is kept to a minimum in your team, whether you are a coach or a player. Firstly, always be clear about what you mean when you say words like "snap", "hassle", or "kill the opposition" as words

like these can be misinterpreted.

Ask for feedback about what you have directed so that you ensure that the players around you have a similar representation of what you have just said.

If they do not have a similar idea, rephrase or clarify statement. Secondly, do not condone this kind of attitude at your club if you are a player or coach.

Thirdly, in not condoning this kind of attitude explain why by educating your players about the effects that this attitude can have on other players in the team, players who are watching your game, the opposition, spectators and sponsors, injuries, and suspensions.



wished to hurt the opposition they meant that they wanted to hit them hard in fair tackles.

The players learnt that they had to be more aware of what they were saying and how it could be perceived by others. Even though most of them and their coach held the belief that 'snap' meant to hit the opposition hard in clean, fair tackles, their fellow player thought that this meant to intentionally injure, and believed that this kind of play would be looked

These steps should ensure that your team plays a hard but fair game, where the team's performance is given the best opportunity to be the best it can be.

Kieran Morrow courtesy of Morrow Psychological Consulting on 0413 027 468/02 66741263

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teams as the focus of the game switches to how much we can physically hurt the opposition rather than by hurting them on the scoreboard.

This also may lead to injuries or referees having to send off or caution players. In the long run, these do not benefit the teams at all. When players are injured, or sent off, it only means that the rest of the players in the team have to work harder during that particular game, and if suspensions come from this, or long term injuries, then the squad is reduced.

Ultimately, you and your team are losing out. I suppose there is also a moral overtone that this kind of attitude of purposely hurting others is not good for humanity.

There are other implications to this kind of attitude as well. To potential sponsors of a team, the obvious intent to injure may mean the difference between financial stability for a club.

Also, what example does it set for younger or even player of the same age — whether they be of the same team, opposition, or spectators.

There was an example with a team that I worked with where a young player of the team did not feel that he could perform the 'snaps' or be in that frame of mind that the rest of his team performed or thought like.

His confidence to play in the team dropped because he felt that he could not think and play like his teammates.

In another case a player with big potential held the perception that he must 'snap' — to injure' the opposition every time he entered the soccer field. This perception had grown in his mind for a couple of years as his coaches had consistently asked him to be harder in tackles, and his teammates were known to voice their desires to hurt the opposition physically before a game.

In subsequent games, the player hardly played up to potential and was consistently in trouble with the referee for dangerous, illegal

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Australian Features



Welcome, we are the Four Diegos. This week we talk to a former soccer star who is now putting on one of the biggest games in our history. Former South Melbourne defender, turned businessman, George Christopoulos ...



Diegos: "Congratulations to you and your company, 'Left Field Solutions', for this magnificent initiative. The Diegos fantasize nightly about a soccer event this size, coming to this country. At what stage are preparations and is it going to be a sell out?"

Christopoulos: "Things are progressing fairly well. All we are waiting for is the official squad of 18 from FIFA, which we are expecting anytime now. All the preparations are going tremendously well."

"There are two parts to the night. One is the official opening of the stadium itself which involves a good one hour spectacular, entertainment, fireworks, sporting legend's parade, and, part two is the 'All Star' game itself. Ticket sales are going very well."

"There have been well over 50,000 tickets that have already been sold and another 20,000 tickets committed via the membership of Stadium Australia. So all up we are looking at an incredible 110,000 ticket sell out."

Diegos: "How big is this event compared to other major international events staged in Australia such as the Grand Prix and President's Cup in terms of television rights, media attention and worldwide audience?"



Christopoulos: "It's very much a once off. You only open a stadium of this calibre once every time you have an Olympics in your country. So it is very big in that respect. It's attracting a lot of media attention mainly because of the 'All Star' game and the relevant countries are also waiting to see whether they'll have one of their local stars appearing."

"I know the Japanese are looking forward to Nakata being in the team which means that the game will be going to Japan and the same applies to some of the South American and English players and the TV networks in their countries."

Diegos: "The biggest concern out there for most soccer punters is the level of quality of the FIFA team and whether the Socceroos will be fielding



One of the entertainment acts for the FIFA game will be singer/dancer Jane Scali (left). See her interview in this issue of Soccer Weekly.

their best team. As an organiser what steps have you taken to ensure that the best players slip on their silk jockstraps and play in Sydney in June?"

Christopoulos: "FIFA's has given us the all clear on a great line up. Unfortunately we can only really

take their word on it. I've personally been pushing it with them as much as I can."

"In fact it has got to the stage that they have had to ask me to stop calling them. The invitations that they have drawn up look promising and I'm sure with such a big event, that the majority of the invitations will be accepted."

Diegos: "Which soccer player do you really want coming the most?"

Christopoulos: "I think that obviously, Ronaldo is a name of somebody that everyone would love to see, but he has had a season that has been full of incident and injury so it was always going to be tough to confirm him."

"The player that has been shining and doing amazing things in the last 6 to 12 months is Zinedine Zidane. He has, this season been voted 'FIFA World Player of the Year', and hopefully by securing France's World Cup winning coach, Aime Jacquet as the coach of the 'All Stars', that may encourage him to attend our party."

Diegos: "We know how Zidane hates the cold weather in Italy and perhaps, if the weather is good while he is here we may be able to get him to sign him up to play for Canberra Cosmos. If we pressurize Cosmos coach, Tommy Sermeni he may just find a spot for him in the team."

Christopoulos: "From what I hear it's more his wife that we have to convince rather than Zinedine. We may need you guys to be working on his wife while she is out here, showing her the sights and making sure that she loves Sydney."

Diegos: "As long as she is happy to, dine out with us at Taco Bills Mexican Cantina, silver service of course, we will be happy to oblige you."

Christopoulos: "OK! A hot date with the Four Diegos is now officially on Mrs Zidane's itinerary."

Diegos: "I know the organisers have been wanting to keep the identity of the big name, pre-game entertainment act under wraps, but we believe that it's time that the Mexican jumping beans were spilled and for you to announce that, along with the Diegos doing their famed table top dancing act, the big name act is going to be?"

Christopoulos: "I can't at this stage. We've gone



Our Harry in the Premier League against Liverpool ... he is coming back to play for Australia against the FIFA all-stars.

around the proverbial merry go round with potential acts. As you know, people in the entertainment industry such as yourselves, can be a little erratic, moody, anxious and temperamental."

"The big acts are always difficult to nail down but we've had some fantastic artists that have shown a lot of interest and we are very confident that we have one that will set the stadium alight."

Diegos: "You know that we won't play second fiddle to anybody, the Rolling Stones included."

Christopoulos: "Well I suppose that's them off the list."

Diegos: "Have you checked on the whereabouts of the serial protester, who jumped on the MCG goal net and interrupted the Socceroos World Cup qualifier against Iran in 1997?"

"If you find him the entire Aussie 1997 World Cup squad want a word with him?"

Christopoulos: "Is that right. I don't know too much about him and his whereabouts."

"I'm sure though, that he will not disrupt this event. Speaking of the Aussie World Cup stars, it's great to see the Kewells, Vidukas, Bosnichs of this world really looking forward to this event."

"The timing is perfect. They'll have finished their commitments with their clubs in Europe and they will be coming back to Australia for a holiday anyway."

Diegos: "Thanks George. Just leave Zinedine's wife in the capable hands of the Four Diegos and everything will be alright. Adios amigo!"

Christopoulos: "Thanks Diegos. I'm sure Mrs. Zidane will be in good, if not roaming hands. Adios amigos!"

The Four Diegos radio soccer show can be heard in Melbourne on 97.4 FM Saturday 10-12 midday

E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com.

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GOLEBIEWSKI BACK WHERE SHE BELONGS



Kelly Golebiewski is back on track, successfully making her comeback for the Matildas though still aged just seventeen.

Last December, Golebiewski was selected as a 1999 AIS scholarship athlete, the only one from outside the 1998 OAP Squad. It marked the end of a long hard road for the teenager who had feared her international football career had ended after barely getting started.

You see, the 'child genius' had already notched up three caps back in July 1996, out there against no less than world superpowers USA and China shortly before they contested the Olympic Games final. In the process, she became Australia's youngest ever to play a full international, aged fourteen.

Four months later, at the beginning of the inaugural national league season, Golebiewski gave in to a painful knee condition. Initially told she would be sidelined for just a month, the injury was to be an irritating nuisance. But the pain remained, and there was no improvement. A second diagnosis, and Golebiewski was handed down a life sentence. The bright young star suffered the news that she would never play soccer again, or that at best she would last only till the end of her teens, so bad would her knees be by that time.

Floored by the devastating news, Golebiewski sought the advice of a strength and conditioning coach and a top surgeon, the pair proving to be her salvation.

"They said if I work on my muscular strength in my legs, I can overcome the pain in my knees. So I worked hard on the weights and slowly made my way back. I had arthroscopy for a torn cartilage, but because it had been torn for so long, there was bone damage as well."

Golebiewski was out of the game for a total of nine months, but it took much longer for her to regain some semblance of the mesmerising footballer she once was. The trademark touch on the ball, close skills, and ability to terrorise defenders had escaped her. After all the frustrating months of working out in the gym to get back out on the park, now followed an even more harrowing time trying to gingerly reconstruct from scratch her harmony and confidence with the football.

"Training was a bit of a struggle, but all the girls and my coach at the time Connie Selby helped me through it. They wanted to help me with my ball skills, they all encouraged me. I had got to the stage of, not giving up, but I thought I'd never be the same player I was. Working my way through all that made me want it all so much more. I wanted to look after my body properly, treat any injuries properly. And after getting dropped from the team, I just wanted to get back in."

Working her way back up through Schoolgirls, and then the NSW Youth Team, an element of uncertainty still simmered away in her head. Eventually she was rewarded with selection in the 1998 Australian Youth Team for its

SHE HAS FOUGHT ADVERSITY TO BE IN CONTENTION FOR A MATILDAS WORLD CUP JERSEY, SHE IS KELLY GOLEBIEWSKI ...

Tour to Holland.

"Basically that was the first step to working my way back. I didn't think it at first, but then I thought I'm getting noticed again if they've selected me for this. Then I just wanted to play as well as possible to prove I was good enough to get back into the team."

Today she is very much ensconced at the AIS and well in contention for a berth at the World Cup. Golebiewski is soaking in the total experience at the AIS, on and off the park, and the benefits are showing both in



The little champ in action.

her game and her personal character.

"We've got everything there. And the coaches are really great, I've got so much respect for them both. We're so spoilt with the fields we have, compared to what we've been used to training on. It's just excellent having the whole Institute there around you."

"It's more professional how we train together as a team and our individual sessions. The set-up is more professional, so

you yourself have to be more professional. Things like recovery sessions before no-one pushed you to do recovery. Now you do it for yourself, not because you've been told to do it."

Used to training everyday during her years at Westfield Sports High, Golebiewski now enjoys the added camaraderie of living with a group of her teammates at the AIS Residence. Any uncertainty of leaving the security of her family home was soon forgotten.

"We trained together at school, but I never saw any of them outside soccer."

"It's good living here together and getting along outside of training as well — they're a great bunch of girls to live with. Everyone really welcomed me. At first, I didn't know if I wanted to go, because I'd miss my family and friends."

Now I like doing my own washing and stuff, I feel more grown up doing everything for myself."

But enjoying domestic chores has not dulled her completely. Following her around was a reputation for fiery on-field behaviour which saw her too regularly issued with yellow cards and send-offs. She says it hasn't gone altogether, but it "has calmed down a lot".

"It's realising that you have to be more professional not just off the park but on the park where it counts. You can't afford to be getting reds and yellows in an international."

Used mainly as a striker back in NSW colours, Golebiewski is another to be successfully transformed into a new position by National Coach Greg Brown, today making her mark as a left midfielder. Although she has at times played there before, she is pleased to now be understanding the workings of the position.

"Changing position has meant I've had to learn quickly. As a striker, I was used to turning with the ball. There's a lot to take in of how to play there (on the left), learning the things I should be doing. Before, I just

played, but didn't have any idea why."

First taking up soccer at age four, Golebiewski always played in boys' competition. Growing up in Sydney, the most competitive cauldron of boys' soccer, one player soon shone through as a certain talent — the lone girl more than matching it with the boys.

Golebiewski was to become something of a trailblazer. At age eleven, she was the only girl in the Blacktown representative team, competing in the elite Metropolitan League. In her second year with the Reps, Golebiewski was selected into the boys' Junior Development Squad based at NSW headquarters in Parklea, despite the then establishment of a similar girls' program.

Golebiewski was then further groomed with enrolment at Westfields Sports High, Sydney's first and foremost specialist sports school, and renowned for its soccer program.

In Year 7, Golebiewski was once again the only girl in the program. One or two other girls eventually filtered through in later years until last year, quite a number of girls were mixing it alongside the boys.

Yet despite all the early success in the game, soccer was not actually Golebiewski's main sport during her younger days. She was a promising sprinter, competing and getting results in Little Athletics, reaching State Championships level. "But towards the end of Little Athletics, soccer started taking over. I enjoyed it better in a team environment. Athletics got boring for me."

Golebiewski is pleased with her progress and current form. With World Cup selections less than a week away, every training session and game must seem like a trial. But pressure has never presented a problem for her, even when the obvious natural talent meant expectations of her grew to bigger and loftier heights at such a young age.

"Pressure doesn't really get to me. I don't go out thinking I've got to do this or that. I just play my game - I don't think about it all

too much."

"I'm nervous inside but I try not to show it," she says of the looming selections. "I try not to think about it, but it's always in the back of your mind 'Will I or won't I make it?' I just try to block it out, otherwise you get too worried. Just play the way it happens and things usually go alright."

"Sometimes I do think how big it would be if I actually get to go to the World Cup. Then I come back down to thinking 'I don't want to be left behind.'"

Golebiewski's brash confidence when on the full attack can be breathtaking. Her ability was none better illustrated than during her display against eventual champions China in the recent Algarve Cup, when she came off the bench and carved her marker apart, getting in behind the defence and providing pinpoint crosses. The young Aussie made sure she enjoyed it all to the fullest, visibly rubbing it in to her Chinese opponents. Such harmless arrogance, and a thrill to watch.

"I love to attack players, I love beating players. During that game, I was watching from the sideline for any weaknesses in my opponent if I was to come on. She gave me room for me to do what I like to do best, so I took advantage of that when I went on."

"On the bench, you can see everything, so if you come off the bench, you know what you have to do. And sitting beside the coaches, you hear what they want the team to do. If you get on, that's all there in the back of your mind."

Some sound advice from the youngster, advice which she may well get to put into practice on the big stage at USA '99.

USA HAMMERS JAPAN 9-0!

Japan's World Cup Team has fallen victim to a US Team back to its attacking best, going down 9-0 in the opening match on 29 April.

Three days later, it was another trouncing to the scoreline of 7-0 before an Atlanta crowd of 14,652.

Played in steady rain, USA created a comfortable three-goal buffer at the half-way mark of the first match, but really turned on the entertainment after the break.

Striker Tiffeny Milbrett led the way with four goals, all scored in the second half.

The return match saw the home side once again run riot, their smaller less experienced Japanese opponent showing little resistance to the American's crisp moves.

Mia Hamm finally broke her 8-game scoring drought with a stunning curling long-range strike for a 2-0 half-time lead, before another second-half goal.

WORLD CUP AND NORDIC TEAMS

The much-awaited World Cup Team will be announced on Monday 17 May at a press conference to be held at the AIS in Canberra.

A 20-strong Matildas team will represent Australia at its most important campaign to date, departing for the USA on 31 May.

On the same day, the U21 Australian Team to compete at

the Nordic Cup in Iceland this August will also be named. A maximum of two overage players (up to 25 years old) are permitted to be included in the 18 player team.

Our national coaches have agreed that players selected for the World Cup will not be considered for the Nordic Cup.

MAY IS... ERICSSON CUP FINALS

Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing.

Please check local guides in case of changes.

We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.

RESULTS ELIMINATION FINAL (second legs)

Marconi Farfield	2
Northern Spirit	1

Perth Glory	2
Adelaide City	1

MAJOR SEMI FINAL (first leg)

Sth Melbourne	2
Sydney United	1

THIS WEEK

(Finals Series: Week 3)
Minor Semi-Final

Saturday 15 May

Perth Glory v Marconi
The WACA, Perth

Major Semi-Final Second Leg

Sunday 16 May

Sydney United v
South Melbourne
Edensor Park, Sydney





ERICSSON CUP FIRST LEG MAJOR SEMI FINAL



WHEN PUMAS ATTACK!



PLESA'S STUNNER SWINGS PENDULUM SYDNEY'S WAY

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
Curcija 45, Coveny 54
SYDNEY UNITED 1
Plesa 72
At Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne
Major Semi-Final First Leg

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Richard Plesa's spectacular 72nd minute goal has swung the Major Semi-Final slightly in the favour of Sydney United.

United lost 2-1 to South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday, but now only need a 1-0 victory in the second leg for the right to host the Ericsson Cup Grand Final.

South need to avoid defeat at Edensor Park this weekend to once again have the home advantage in the championship decider.

Plesa's 30 metre strike cancelled out a two goal deficit that United had after conceding goals either side of half time.

United's coach, David Mitchell, was pleased with the result and felt that United may have done enough to earn a draw.

"It was a close game," said Mitchell. "We had a couple of other near misses, enough to earn us a draw."

"We had a couple of clear cut chances in the first half and a few more bobbed up in the second."

"At 2-0 down, it was looking very difficult but Richard miskicked one and it went into the top corner," joked Mitchell.

Plesa knew the importance of the goal, his second for the season.

"It was nice, it felt sweet off the foot," he beamed at the post-match press conference.

"I was a good time to get the goal, we needed something like that because it wasn't looking good

for us. The away goal has changed the complexion of the tie."

South Melbourne, so used to teams coming to Bob Jane Stadium and just shutting up shop, were given an indication that United didn't come to defend as early as the first minute.

Michael Santalab, in the line-up ahead of Walter Ardone, floated in a free kick that Velimir Kupresak flicked on but no-one could reach.

Goran Lozanovski, South's free-kick specialist, lined up from 30 metres in the fifth minute with a shot that whistled just wide of Mike Gibson's right hand post.

In the 14th minute, Nathan Day headed into the side netting after following up a Mile Sterjovski rocket that Michael Petkovic parried into the air.

After a stirring opening, the game became scrappy with niggly fouls and not much in the way of goalscoring chances.

A defensive error lead to the best opportunity of the first half in the 39th minute.

A poor clearance landed at the feet of Santalab but, perhaps surprised, he blasted the ball way over the bar from just five metres out.

Lozanovski then came close with free-kick before the home team took the lead right on the stroke of half-time.

The goal owed much to the magic of south captain Paul Trimboli and perhaps a little carelessness by the United defence.

David Clarkson hooked over a cross that Gibson had given up but Trimboli, with a United defender in close attention, flicked the ball back with the outside of his right foot for Michael Curcija to help the ball over the line.

Mitchell said after the game that it was sloppy goal to concede. Curcija came awfully close to making it 2-0 in the opening moments of the second half.

Having won the ball off Kupresak, Curcija retreated and with no other options presenting



Richard Plesa ... what a goal!

themselves, he decided to have a go himself but narrowly wide with his low right foot effort.

Eight minutes later though, South did secure themselves another goal.

South had won their second corner of the game and Lozanovski delivered it right into the centre where Vaughan Coveny got up highest to head the ball into the corner.

Just six minutes later, United had a chance to pull one goal back when they got through South's previously iron defence.

Jacob Burns rolled a perfect through ball for Young Soccerroo Sterjovski but Petkovic spread himself well to make a superb save.

There was nothing that Petkovic could do twelve minutes later though when Plesa decided to try his luck.

The defender was all of 30 metres out from goal but from the moment he struck it, it seemed destined for the top corner.

Petkovic, to his enormous credit, managed to get a hand on it, but the ball still found the back of the net via the bar and the post.

United were now very much back in the tie and South battled hard to restore the two goal break.

Substitute Jim Tsekiris' deflected shot off Steve Berry had the United defenders scrambling in the 77th minute but the ball ballooned agonisingly wide.

In the end United did more than just hold out, they nearly snatched a draw right at the death.

Peter Bennett, out on the right hand side had a free-kick. With the South defence expecting him to

MATCH STATS

Crowd: 10,691

Referee: Eddie Lennie

South Melbourne: Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, De Amicis, Orlic, Blattsis, Clarkson, Coveny, Trimboli (Anastasiadis 81), Curcija (Panopoulos 71), Lozanovski (Tsekiris 73), Goutzioulis

Sydney United: Gibson, Barrett, Kupresak, Plesa, Vrkoc, Santalab (Townsend 69), Berry, Bennett, Burns, Sterjovski (Griffiths 74), Day.

Yellows

South Melbourne: Iosifidis 41, De Amicis 82, Goutzioulis 90
Sydney United: Vrkoc 31, Griffiths 86

Players Votes of the Year:

3 Blattsis (SM)
2 Burns (SU)
1 Petkovic (SM)

cross it, Bennett fooled everyone when he shot instead.

Luckily for South, Petkovic was aware and pulled off another memorable save to tip the ball around the post.

Both coaches were satisfied with the result. South coach Ange Postecoglou stressed how important it was to win the home leg.

"I would have taken that result at the start of the day, it's much better than losing 2-1," Postecoglou said.

"The most important thing is to win at home, you can't count away goals and all that but if we didn't win at home we would've been behind the eight ball."

"The last time we played was three weeks ago against Canberra, which wasn't a great lead-in game. You always have a little doubt in the back of your mind whether we're match-hardened or the boys are focussed but I couldn't be more satisfied with the performance."

"We played well, we worked hard, we were disciplined and organised, that's a good sign for us."

Postecoglou left out Steve Panopoulos, who had tweaked a hamstring in the Canberra game for George Goutzioulis and conceded that Lozanovski wasn't 100% fit.

"I was a little bit worried that he'd (Panopoulos) be underdone. I knew we'd need him at some stage and with a question mark over Lozanovski as well I didn't want to go in there with too many players that I was unsure of."

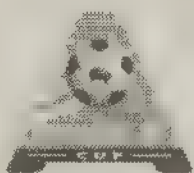
Mitchell, whose squad came through the game with a clean bill of health, expects South to come out hard this week.

"They won't just come up and defend, they'll attack us, there's still a lot to play for."

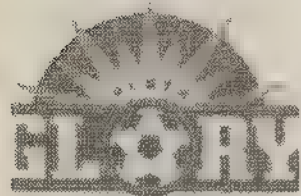
"But we've got 90 minutes to score one goal, that's plenty of time," concluded Mitchell.



Bob Blattsis (top row third from left) had a commanding game for the champions.



ERICSSON CUP SECOND LEG ELIMINATION FINAL



PERTH CLINCHES GLORIOUS VICTORY

ADELAIDE CITY



HALPIN INSPIRES GLORY THRILLER IN FRONT OF 25,000

PERTH GLORY 2
Harnwell 73, Despotovski 87
ADELAIDE CITY 1
Mori 48
At the WACA, Perth
Elimination Final Second Leg

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory earned the right to meet Marconi Fairfield next week in the Minor Semi-Final of the Ericsson Cup after a thrilling last gasp 2-1 victory over Adelaide City at a packed WACA Ground last Saturday.

The Perth side was staring down the barrel of defeat after a Damian Mori free-kick goal put the Zebras in front with just 20 minutes of the Elimination Final second leg remaining.

But an intensely enthusiastic crowd of 25,067 spurred their team on toward a memorable victory.

"It was a terrific result for us although you must feel for Adelaide especially after holding a 1-0 lead," said a humble Glory captain Gareth Naven. "The difference I believe was that we had 25,000 fans behind us, which certainly gave us that lift when we needed it."

Harnwell and Troy Halpin in particular, were inspirational for the home side, Harnwell with his repeat shut-out performance of City dangerman Damian Mori and Halpin with his trojan work-rate from midfield.

The Perth side dominated play from the opening



Bobby Despotovski brought the roof down with his last-gasp winner.

whistle and were unlucky not gain a breakthrough in opening half

A powerful close-range Craig Deans header was superbly saved by Jason Petkovic after six minutes, Deans again headed wide a minute later, then Naven, Despotovski and Scott Miller all had openings on the City goal, but couldn't find the back of the net.

The visitors' strongest chance to score fell to Mori in the 44th minute, but his tricky 18 metre grass-cutter was smartly stopped by goalkeeper Anthony Franken.

The second-half had Glory continue on with where they left off with Halpin and Despotovski threatening.

Gianfranco Circati, who possesses arguably one of the sweetest right-footers in the NSL, skimmed the top of Petkovic's cross-bar with a rising 30 metre strike in the 61st minute.

Two minutes later, Halpin burst through the Zebras defence only to direct his shot across the face of the goal.

As is so often the case, the opposition's response to having their backs to wall, was to go a goal up and City did this in the 69th minute after Harnwell conceded a free-kick on Mori.

Mori's decision to attack the goal direct from the dead-ball kick caught Glory by surprise, with the curling waist high drive finding the far side of the net with the aid of a deflection.

Harnwell redeemed himself by netting the equaliser four minutes later with a move he started by sending Robert Trajkovski away down the right

flank.

The nippy defender sent an inch perfect pass to the head of the tall stopper who powered a downward header past Petkovic's left hand.

Harnwell's delight in scoring his first NSL goal

MATCH STATS

Crowd: 25,000

Referee: S. Micallef

Perth Glory: T. Franken, R. Trajkovski, J. Harnwell, G. Naven, S. Miller (P. Strudwick 66), T. Halpin, B. Despotovski, J. Markovski (A. Edwards 73), C. Boutsianis (V. Kalogeracos 77), C. Deans, G. Circati

Adelaide City: J. Petkovic, M. Yates (M. Hawrysiuk 83), M. Ivanovic, A. Tobin, C. Talladira, D. Mori, D. Mennillo (C. Veart 48), A. Costanzo, D. Terminello, N. Sabljak, D-k Kim

Yellows

Perth Glory A. Edwards 88
Adelaide City C. Veart 73

Players Votes of the Year:

3: T. Halpin (PG)
2: J. Harnwell (PG)
1: G. Naven (PG)

was clearly evident as he raced to the crowd to celebrate.

City responded in the 82nd minute when substitute Carl Veart was centimetres away from putting the Adelaide club in front once more with a surprise volley that struck the cross-bar.

With a 1-1 result looming, Despotovski produced the loudest roar of the evening when he headed home the winner from six metres three minutes from time.



Damian Mori's goal 20 minutes from time looked to have sealed the win.

SUPPORTER'S VIEW ...

By University student and Glory fan Evette Lukeston

Eat your heart out cricket, the WACA was set alight last Saturday night by the new boys on the block — Perth Glory. In a word, the crowd that turned out to spur the Glory on to victory was electric and proved to be nothing short of inspirational for the home side.

The reception the Perth boys received from the huge crowd as they ran onto the pitch would send shivers down anyone's spine and the roar that erupted when Despotovski scored the winner in the dying stages of the game rivals any in the world.

Even before a ball had been kicked you could feel it in the atmosphere — the game was going to be something special. The crowd assembled behind the goal was in fine spirits and ready to cheer our team onto victory. Just the sight of us — all 25,000 of us must have been enough to put even the most composed of opposition teams on edge.

Our overwhelming presence alone, not to mention the never ending chants of 'Glory, Glory' created an atmosphere never before witnessed at the Western Australian Cricket Ground. It was a true finals football atmosphere.

And when all appeared over for season 98-99, the crowd never gave up hope that our team could and would come back. No one headed for the turnstiles after Mori's cracker of a goal, instead, the chants became louder and the crowd seemed to have doubled in size.

And the boys responded like true Champions, coming from behind to snatch victory in the sweetest way possible.

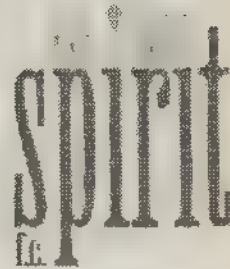
Now, with the Zebras accounted for, bring on the Stallions — the Perth crowd is waiting.



ERICSSON CUP SECOND LEG ELIMINATION FINAL



STALLIONS TRIUMPH OVER SPIRIT



GLORY AWAITS FARINA'S MEN

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2-0
Smith 45, Z Babic 48
NORTHERN SPIRIT
Arnold 82
At Marconi Stadium, Sydney
Elimination Final Second Leg

By Bonnie Mersiades

Memories of the 4-0 drubbing suffered by Marconi at the hands of Northern Spirit when the teams first met at North Sydney Oval in January, were well and truly exorcised at Marconi Stadium on Sunday night.

Sydney turned on a quite pleasant Mother's Day - cool and fine - providing perfect playing conditions.

Marconi repeated the razzamatazz of a fortnight before, with the same Brazilian band and dancers, fireworks, the frilly Stallionettes and a mass of blue and white balloons which decorated suburban Bossley Park for some time after they were let adrift.

The Marconi Stallion was missing his sequinned jacket, but Northern Spirit's travelling fans - predominantly from the now-famous Bob Stand - provided noise and colour in one half of the northern stand.

The respective Club head persons, Tony Labbozetta and Remo Nogarotto, took the field with State Minister of Sport, John Watkins, to wish the teams well.

Unfortunately, Marconi's invitation to the recently arrived Kosovar refugees to enjoy the game as their guests had been declined two days before on their behalf by Immigration officials.

It would have been a great game for the casual spectator to wander into.

It was a 'do or die' game. At the end of the day there would be one less team in the Ericsson Cup finals series, and both teams were desperate: Marconi because they see it as their rightful destiny, and Northern Spirit because they wanted to continue their fairytale inaugural season in the national soccer league.

The first surprise of the match came from Northern Spirit coach, Graham Arnold, who re-shuffled his pack. It was a case of 'back to the future' when he placed Matt Bingley up-front to partner Clayton Zane, and Robbie Slater played in his more familiar position out wide on the right. Bingley hasn't played up-front regularly for quite some time - probably not since his old St George days.

For Marconi, coach Frank Farina had to proceed without captain Brad Maloney who is now in his third week of enforced leave due to injury, as well as the little marshall, Pan Keun Kim, who was injured in last week's torrid encounter with Northern Spirit.

Darren McDonald again picked up the midfield dynamo, Kresimir Marusic, while Slater's move to the wide right position made for an interesting battle with last week's man of the match, Brendan Renaud.

From the outset, it was edge-of-the-seat stuff.

Farina said after the game that the game could have gone either way.

"They are a very good side, and they took the game to us all night."

In the first 15 minutes, both teams had hot chances; both goal keepers were tested; both teams had free kicks; Northern Spirit had a corner. Slater and Renaud were already toe-to-toe; McDonald had Marusic on a tight leash, Mike Smith picked up a yellow card; and Northern Spirit's game plan of pinpoint crosses from Slater or Langdon to the tall timber of Zane, Bingley and Bilokapic was working well.

Both teams had close shaves with the goal throughout

the first half in a fast and exciting encounter.

Around the fifth minute, a Slater cross to Bingley saw Bingley's header come oh-so-close when it hit the crossbar. A minute later, Marconi swept the ball up the park in a counter-attack which saw Sean Babic beat Arnold and Mark Rudan, and draw Paul Henderson out of his goal, when Arnold appeared from nowhere to



Sean Babic ... Marconi's Man of the Match

clear the ball off the line.

Babic's speed and ability to hold the ball caused some worrying times for the Northern Spirit defence while his striking partner, Francis Awaritefe, was kept relatively quiet due to some tight marking from Rudan.

Marusic got away from McDonald long enough to take a deliberate aim for the top left corner of the goal mouth, to see the ball just clear the cross bar. Arnold worked the ball up the park with the aid of Zane, Marusic and Langdon, only to hit it straight to the Ante Covic, and from right in front of goal, Bingley had a shot smothered by the courageous Covic. While Spirit tried their luck with long-range attempts from Crook and Bilokapic, they were far fewer than last week.

Robbie Hooker also got in on the act when he turned his man in front of goal to unleash a forceful kick which was stopped by a low take from Henderson, who made similar heroic saves off a potent attempt from Renaud, and a one-on-one with Mike Smith.

Northern Spirit had more of the possession in the first

half, with more shots on goal and forcing more corners, while Marconi relied on the counter-attack.

The deadlock was broken in the dying moments of the half when Smith headed in a Chad Gibson corner into the far top of the net.

The Marconi fans were ecstatic, while the Northern Spirit faithful went into a state of shock and stillness.

Arnie re-shuffled again in the second half in an attempt to solve Spirit's goal-scoring drought.

Risking injury to his neck, Arnold threw himself up front and put Bingley back into midfield.

However, Marconi took up in the second half where they left off in the first. In the 48th minute, Hooker unfurled a long ball which Henderson misjudged. It bounced over his head enabling the running Sean Babic to glide it into the net. Henderson lay on the turf for several seconds, devastated.

Arnold said after the game that he didn't blame Henderson for the goal. "He has not made many mistakes this season and these things happen in football."

But Northern Spirit didn't give up. They almost pulled one back in the 65th minute when a shot by Zane bounced off Buddy Farah, who was standing on the line. The rebound off Farah was cleared by Longo. Northern Spirit players appealed for hand ball by Farah, but referee Mark Shield did not agree.

Bingley, Slater and Foster also saw chances go wide or straight to Covic. Spirit were finally rewarded with a goal to Arnold in the 82nd minute from a scramble in front of goal after a cross from the young and speedy Anthony Faria.

To their credit, Marconi continued to make a game of it throughout the second half, rather than just defend their lead and the final whistle was greeted with relief from the Marconi fans and bench.

Farina said Northern Spirit were too good a side to close down play. "They make you play, and when Arnie got the goal, we had to play harder."

Despite the importance of the game - and the nature of the clash last week - the game was 'best practice standard in terms of the good sportsmanship.'

Slater came to the aid of McDonald when he suffered cramps; Farina and Slater 'made-up' in public after their now famous post-match altercation last week; both sets of players congratulated each other and thanked the crowd; and the two old mates, Farina and Arnold, had a long chat in the middle of the park after the final whistle.

Farina said there were "lots of heroes" for Marconi.

"They had a job to do, and they did it."

MATCH STATS

Crowd: 11,319

Referee: Mark Shield

Marconi Fairfield: Covic, Gibson, M Babic, Longo, McDonald (Phillips, 80m), S Babic (Trajanovski, 83m), Smith, Farah, Awaritefe, Renaud, Hooker

Northern Spirit: Henderson, Crook, Rudan, Casserly, Marusic, Slater, Arnold, Bilokapic (Foster, 77m), Zane, Langdon (Fana, 72m), Bingley

Yellows

MF: Smith
NS: Arnold

Players Votes of the Year:

3 S Babic (Marconi Fairfield)
2 Arnold (Northern Spirit)
1: Smith (Marconi Fairfield)

He said he had not given any thought to next Saturday's encounter against Perth Glory at the WACA.

"Perth Glory will be even tougher than usual in front of 25,000 Western Australians, but we were unlucky not to win there during the season. It's a big ask, but it's not impossible."

He described Maloney's availability for Saturday's game as "the million dollar question".

"He was supposed to be out for one week, and it's now been three, so I just have to wait and see how he progresses. It's possible he may be fit, but I am planning on him not being available until I know any different."

Farina congratulated Northern Spirit on their effort in their inaugural season, and said that he looks forward to next season's encounters.

Although a tired and emotional Arnold threw his boots into the crowd at the end of the game, he said this was because they were smelly and not because he was retiring from playing!

"This result hurts as much as the Iran game," he said "but, as a club, we've come a long way in a short time and I'm very proud of the players and to be part of the club. Our success is good for Sydney football."

He described the performance of youngsters such as Langdon, Cunico, Watkins, Henderson and Faria as the encouraging aspect of his first season as coach.

"They've all worked hard and I have really enjoyed seeing them develop and improve as we've worked together."

He said that Frank Farina had "worked wonders" with his team.

"A few weeks ago everyone had written them and Frank off, but he's really turned them around."

Give credit where it's due

Arnold said with Northern Spirit out of the equation, he would be hoping that one of the two remaining Sydney teams went all the way.

"I don't mind if it's Marconi or Sydney United. Either would be good for football in this State," he said.

In summary, a highly entertaining and fiercely contested match, where the fans left as emotionally exhausted as the players - and which will have fans coming back for more next season.

* See Graham Arnold poster on middle pages, and a Day in the Life of Frank Farina on seven.

POST SCRIPT

By Bonnie Mersiades

Northern Spirit has taken the NSL by storm this season. Promising a fresh and Glorv esque approach, they delivered. They invested in players; they invested in marketing, publicity and advertising; and the fans came.

This time last season, most of us hadn't heard of the Bob Stand. Today, the 'Bob Stander's' are legendary: tough, devoted, cultured football heads who sing endlessly, proudly, devotedly to the team for which they've waited so, so long.

Northern Spirit Chairman, Remo Nogarotto said after their defeat at the hands of Marconi on Sunday night, that the Club owes a "huge debt of gratitude" to the supporters.

"A football club needs to provide entertaining, competitive football and a team to be proud of. We met that need, but they've been instrumental in making the Club what it is today."

Arnold agreed.

"Our supporters have been the icing on the cake, as they were the great unknown when I took on this job. They're fantastic."

Nogarotto said the Club had a good platform on which to build for an even more competitive squad next season.

"No-one likes losing - least of all me. We'll be back bigger and stronger!"

It's a promise

National Youth League

Organised by NSW Soccer Federation, proudly sponsored by Prestige Weddings and Function Centre
Argon Video Productions

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Preliminary Final

Sunday 9 May 1999

South Melbourne3 Gippsland Falcons4
(Grant Kennedy 3) (John Hutchinson, Robert Puca, own goal,
Ross Duckworth)

(After sudden death extra time, score at 90 minutes 3-all)

GRAND FINAL

Sunday 16 May 1999

Carlton v Gippsland Falcons

(Venue, time to be announced)

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	24	17	4	3	72	26	55
South Melbourne	24	14	3	7	44	25	45
VIS	24	11	6	7	47	33	39
Gippsland Falcons	24	10	4	10	43	34	34
Melbourne Knights	24	9	3	12	44	53	30
Bulleen Inter Kings	24	8	5	11	29	44	29
Albury Wodonga	24	1	3	20	20	84	6

(Games not played recorded as 0-0)

Southern Division ... Gippsland Falcons qualified for the final of the Southern Division against Carlton with an incredible four-three win over South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium after sudden death extra time.

No one could have contemplated the turnaround which occurred after South Melbourne ran away to a three-nil lead in 53 minutes. Grant Kennedy was the star with all three goals, in 15, 31 and 53 minutes. Seven minutes

later John Hutchinson scored for Falcons and the fightback began.

Five minutes later it was Robert Puca's turn to score.

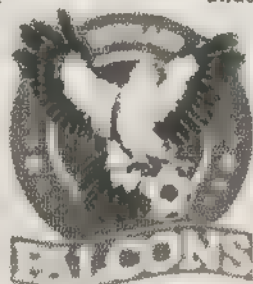
There were only ten minutes left to play and the force was

with Gippsland and the pressure told as South Melbourne conceded an own goal as Jonathan Buhagiar's effort was deflected.

So the match went to sudden death extra time and in the first minute Ross Duckworth scored for Falcons to bring this pulsating encounter to an end.

South Melbourne players and coaches were devastated after finishing clear second on the ladder and having what appeared to be an unassailable lead, but the Falcons' celebrations could be heard back in Morwell.

Coach Mark Cassar said, "We never gave up and had a goal disallowed after we equalised during normal time".



LEADING SOUTHERN SCORERS

Andrew Mashorian South Melb
Deniz Ekeri Carlton
Tony Ouliaris Carlton
Angelo Moutsopoulos VIS

NORTHERN DIVISION

Preliminary Semi-Final

Sunday 9 May 1999

AIS0 Sydney Olympic3
(Jim Bakis 2, Adrian Cervinski)

Preliminary Final

Sunday 16 May 1999

AIS v Northern Spirit

(Venue, time to be announced)

League Ladder

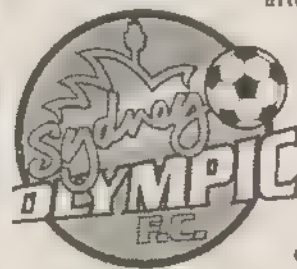
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	28	20	7	1	103	19	67
Sydney Olympic	28	20	4	4	89	30	64
Northern Spirit	28	20	2	6	68	24	62
Newcastle Breakers	28	18	5	5	62	29	59
Marconi Fairfield	28	17	5	6	78	26	56
NSWIS	28	17	3	8	69	33	54
Wollongong Wolves	28	17	2	9	85	35	53
QAS	28	15	2	11	72	44	47
Sydney United	28	12	4	12	59	48	40
Marconi Fairfield Colts	28	8	5	15	35	48	29
ACTAS	28	7	3	18	38	73	24
Northern Spirit Colts	28	4	3	21	23	102	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	28	3	5	20	26	99	14
Sydney United Colts	28	4	1	23	29	97	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	28	1	3	24	15	142	6

Northern Division ... Sydney Olympic gained a place in the Northern Division Final with a convincing three-nil victory over the Australian Institute of Sport at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

Jim Bakis scored twice in 11 and 35 minutes to set up the win and Adrian Cervinski made certain of the result with a goal in 80 minutes.

Olympic coach Peter Papanikitas said afterwards, "We played good one-touch soccer throughout and had a couple of shots cleared off the line as well. We totally dominated for long spells and deserved the result".

The AIS will now play Northern Spirit in the Northern Division Preliminary final with the details to be announced next week, but it is likely to be before or after the Ericsson Cup match between Sydney United and South Melbourne.



spirit
fc

LEADING NORTHERN SCORERS

Mark Haggard Marconi 24
Kevo Gulesserian AIS 21
Simon Catanzaro NSWIS 20
Daniel Kokucka Sydney United 16

Note: Apart from goals in matches played this week, the goalscorers as given here are from Soccer Australia official data.

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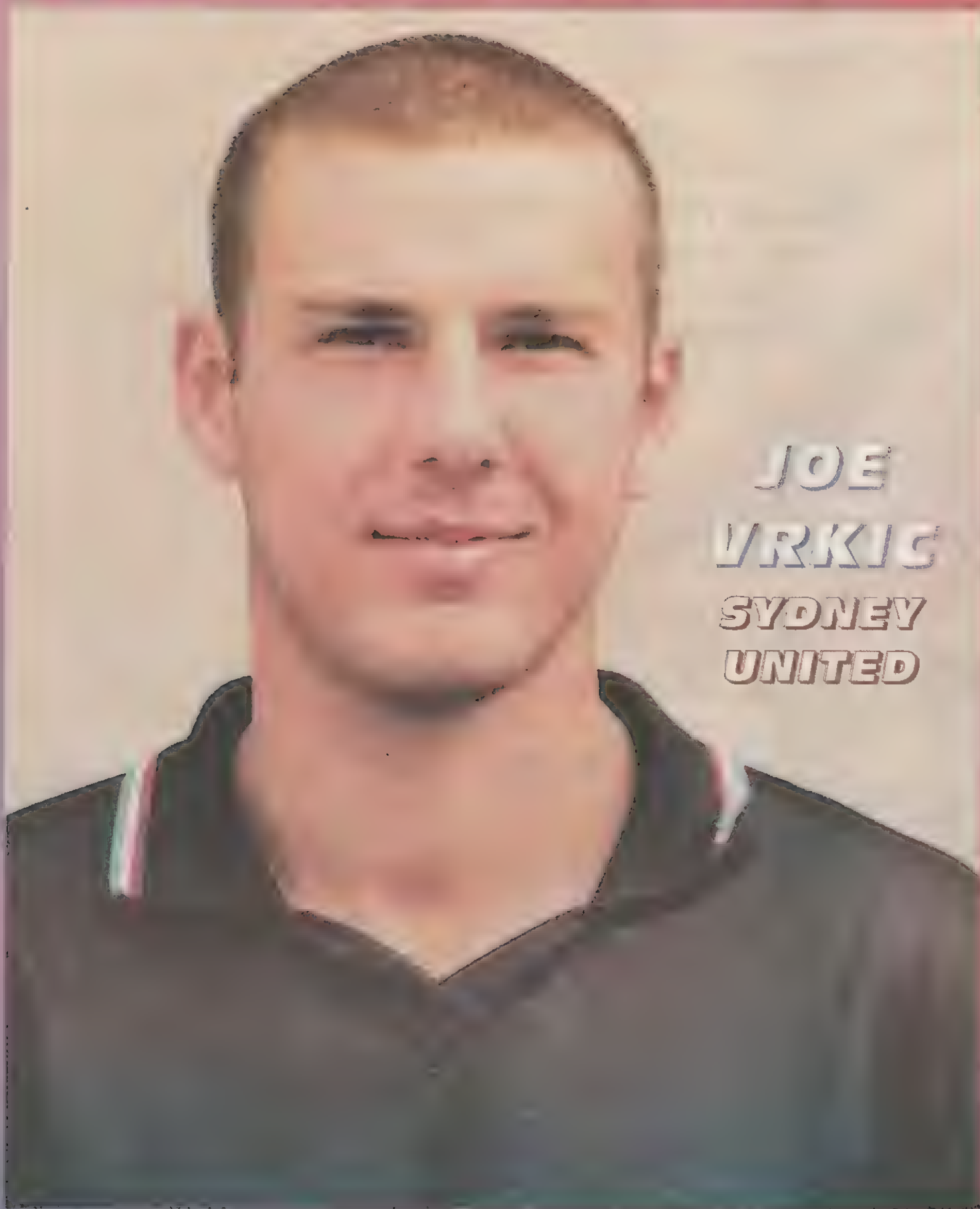
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NSW SUPER LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE ROUND-UP

The Super League program got off to an earlier start than usual, with Eastern Suburbs and Macarthur Rams playing on the Wednesday night in a re-arranged match.

The Rams proved far too strong for the Wanderers in winning 4-1, with goals from Richard Lloyd, Eric Williams, Adrian Macerola and Ian McDonald.

Eastern Suburbs reply came from Peter Pulicino, while the Rams had Michael Brooks from Wollongong making his debut.

On Saturday night the Central Coast, struggling near the bottom of the table, shocked leaders Blacktown City for the second time this season.

After beating the Demons 1-0 at the Gabbie Stadium earlier in the season, the Coasties managed to grab a 1-1 draw through a strike by Dave Maltby. For Blacktown Jason Bennett notched his ninth of the season.

Macarthur made it a good week for themselves by picking up another three points against Ryde City. It was a close game though, with Macarthur's goal in their 1-0 victory coming from an own goal by Ryde's Chris Cowley.

No such dramas for Bonnyrigg though, who closed to within a point of Blacktown by defeating the bottom-placed Eastern Suburbs 4-0. Goals from Milan Crnokrak, Johnny Ghiso, Robert Gomez and Paul Dee sealed all three points.

Leichhardt moved into fourth place with a comfortable 4-1 victory over Sutherland Sharks. Sutherland took the lead through Craig Hobbs after 15 minutes, but goals by Steve Karavatakis, Tom Bazdaric, Chris Lansdown and Joshua Bulgin saw the Tigers home.

Fairfield dropped to fifth after they lost to Canterbury Marrickville 3-1.

Two strikes by Nick Bosevski saw the Berries move into a 2-0 lead, and although Mark Hoenselaars scored a late goal for the Bulls, another late strike by Steve Christoforidis made sure the fans at Henson Park went home happy.

Parramatta Eagles have been in great form recently, but they were defeated by two goals from Bankstown's Mendo Lozevski at Jensen Park.

Macarthur Rams had to rely upon an own goal from Ryde City captain Chris Cowley to record a narrow 1-0 victory over the Gunners at Wentworth Park on Sunday afternoon, reports Bn Cubby.

Neither side lacked commitments in a tight, even first half. Macarthur had the home side under pressure early on, with Kain Rastall and the lively Adrian Macerola harassing their opponent down the flanks.

The first real scoring opportunity of the match came after 25 minutes, when Rams' top scorer Eric Williams sent his glancing header just over the bar.

The next passage of play saw Ryde stalwart Jeff Kelly break free down the left, but Macarthur keeper John Crawley came off his line in a flash to smother the shot. At the other end of the park, Les Bihari also distinguished himself, with three reflex save in as many seconds during an untidy goalmouth scramble.

Michael Brooks, on loan to Macarthur from the Wollongong Wolves, hooked an overhead shot just wide in the 35th minute and David Reid smashed his effort over the bar shortly afterwards. Kelly and Craig Sharpley showed some deft touches in the Gunners midfield but, without the injured Scot Ollerenshaw, the team lacked penetration up-front.

The ironclad Ryde backline was finally breached in the 57th minute. Former Sydney Olympic junior Kain Rastall curled an inswinging free-kick into the box and Chris Cowley misjudged his header, deflecting the ball past Bihari and into the net.

The own goal was the only blemish in an otherwise polished performance by the veteran, who was playing his 169th game for the club.

Rams substitute Jim Aschner almost double the lead with his first touch three minutes later, but Bihari saved from point blank range to keep his side in the match.

Ryde began to surge forward, hunting for an equaliser, and Crawley tipped a shot from Aydin Cetinay onto the post in the 67th minute.

Macarthur's defensive trio of Martin Bourke, Ben Willard and Dion Valle stood firm, absorbing pressure and distributing the ball out skilfully when they gained possession. The pace of Rastall and Trevor Whiddett stretched the Gunners in the last few minutes, but stout work by John Koch and another sparkling save from Bihari kept the final score 1-0.

After the match, long-serving Ryde City coach Les DeCels said that his side lacks an experienced striker, but that he prefers to develop younger players rather than signing established ones. "It was a good, competitive game. It looked like a top of table match," he said, and felt that the slim defeat was a fair result.

Ryde City: Bihari, Segreto, Cowley, Watkins, Kelly, Koch, Peatey, (Wilson), Sharpley, Cetinay (Portelli 68), Elveren, Glucina.

Macarthur Rams: Crawley, Valle, Lloyd (Whiddett 68), Bourke, Reid, Willard, Rastall, Knight, Brooks, Macerola, Williams (Aschner 57).

Referee: J. Streater

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND

16

Saturday 15th May

Central Coast v Leichhardt Tigers

Pulm Park, 6:00pm

Macarthur Rams v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Lynwood Park, 7:00pm

Sunday 16th May

Parramatta Eagles v Fairfield Bulls

Melita Stadium, 3:00pm

Eastern Suburbs v Bankstown City Lions

Jensen Park, 3:00pm

Blacktown City Demons v Canterbury Marrickville

Gabbie Stadium, 3:00pm

Ryde City v Sutherland Sharks

Wentworth Park 3:00pm

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SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 (M Crnokrak 70m J Ghiso 11m R Gomez 20m P Dee 87m) bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Bankstown City 2 (M Lozevski 6/82m) bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Canterbury Marrickville 3 (N Bosevski 22/46m S Christoforidis 93m) bt Fairfield Bulls 1 (M Hoenselaars 90m), Macarthur Rams 1 (own goal 59m) bt Ryde City 0, Leichhardt Tigers 4 (S Karavatakis 26m T Bazdaric 33m C Lansdown 53m J Bulgin 80m) bt Sutherland Sharks 1 (C Hobbs 15m), Central Coast 1 (D Maltby 74m) drew Blacktown City 1 (J Bennett 4m), Macarthur Rams 4 (R Lloyd 45m E Williams 67m A Macerola 73m I McDonald 87m) bt Eastern Suburbs 1 (P Pulicino 40m).

UNDER 21: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Bankstown City 1, Leichhardt Tigers 4 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Fairfield Bulls 1 bt Canterbury Marrickville 0, Macarthur Rams 5 bt Ryde City 1, Blacktown City 3 bt Central Coast 1, Eastern Suburbs 2 drew Macarthur Rams 2.

UNDER 18: Eastern Suburbs 1 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Parramatta Eagles 4 bt Bankstown City 0, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Canterbury Marrickville 4 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Ryde City 0 drew Macarthur Rams 0, Blacktown City 1 bt Central Coast 0, Macarthur Rams 5 bt Eastern Suburbs.

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE: Dulwich Hill 2 (V Mickovski 35m I Oliveria 44m) drew Rockdale City Suns 2 (G Trposki 20m S Robertson 55m), Moorebank Sports 1 (S Djoric 71m) bt Hurstville City 0, Manly Warringah 8 (D Rosenthal 2/25m D Harding 7/13/68m T Miluski 27m M Goodwin 82/90m) bt Stanmore Hawks 1 (P Kypreous 20m), Dulwich Hill 2 (V Mickovski 35m I Oliveria 44m) drew Rockdale City Suns 2 (Illawarra Lions 3 (R Gionetti 15m J Tretselas 20m J Melissourgos 60m) bt Auburn United 1 (A Gordan 55m pen), St George 3 (L Carl 35m L Dounnis 80m S Janic 85m) bt AC United 0, Penrith Panthers 1 bt Moorebank Sports 0.

UNDER 21: Penrith Panthers 4 bt Bathurst '75 1, Manly Warringah 3 bt Stanmore Hawks 2, Rockdale

City Suns 5 bt Dulwich Hill 1, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Auburn United 1, AC United 1 drew St George 1, Hurstville City 3 bt Moorebank Sports 0.

UNDER 18: Penrith Panthers 3 bt Bathurst '75, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Manly Warringah 1, Dulwich Hill 2 bt Rockdale City Suns 1, Auburn United 5 bt Illawarra Lions 0, AC United 5 bt St George 0, Moorebank Sports 5 bt Hurstville City 1.

DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE: Greystanes 1 (A Gauchi 70m) drew Mt Pritchard 1 (I Stoddart 72m), Hajduk Wanderers 5 (J Bougaher 25/39/90m D Brown 16/44m) bt Belmore Hercules 0, Fraser Park 2 (J Palapanis 41m M Zec 70m) bt Hills United 0, Arncliffe Scots 2 (Z Mastevski 20m M Grberski 70m) drew Hurstville ZSC 2 (R Babic 24m A Buntic 85m), Sydney University 4 (D Gill 6m C Bowman 18/34m R Smithies 74m) bt Mt Druitt Town 3 (L Cross 12m B Nicholas 44m J Vanwaard 55), University of NSW 2 (D Bykerk 70m N Moreno 83m) bt Sydney District 1 (M Dominguez 45m).

UNDER 21: Greystanes 1 drew Mt Pritchard 1, Hurstville ZSC 7 bt Arncliffe Scots 1, Hills United 4 bt Fraser Park 3, Hajduk Wanderers 5 bt Belmore Hercules 1, Sydney University 1 drew Mt Druitt Town 1, University of NSW 3 bt Sydney District 1.

UNDER 18: Greystanes 0 drew Mt Pritchard 0, Hurstville ZSC 3 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hills United 9 bt Fraser Park 0, Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt Belmore Hercules 1, Mt Druitt Town 2 bt Sydney University 0, University of NSW 4 bt Sydney District 3.

DIVISION THREE

FIRST GRADE: Western Sydney Lions 3 bt Parramatta City 1, Hakoah 2 bt Trasandinos 1, White City 7 bt Liverpool City 1, Camden Tigers 1 drew Gladesville United 1, Parramatta City 6 bt Maroubra United 1, Colo Colo 3 bt Maroubra United 0, The Wanderers 4 bt Prospect United 0.

SECOND GRADE: Western Sydney Lions 5 bt Parramatta City 0, Trasandinos 2 drew Hakoah 2, Gladesville United 2 bt Camden Tigers 1, Parramatta

City 7 bt Maroubra United 1, Maroubra United 8 bt Colo Colo 3, The Wanderers 4 bt Prospect United 1, White City 10 bt Liverpool City 1.

DIVISION FOUR

FIRST GRADE: Sydney Crescent Star 4 CSI Schofields 0, Prairiewood United 1 bt White Valley 0, Springwood 2 bt Hawkesbury City 1, Auburn Star 1 bt Granville Greensland 0, Eastern Creek Pioneers 2 bt United Eagles 1, Nepean District 2 bt Holy Cross Ryde 1, Balmain 1 bt Marrickville 0.

SECOND GRADE: CSI Schofields 3 bt Sydney Crescent Star 1, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Springwood 0, Auburn Star 2 bt Granville Greensland 1, United Eagles 3 drew Eastern Creek Pioneers 3, Prairiewood United 4 bt White Valley 2, Nepean District 2 bt Holy Cross Ryde 1, Balmain 2 bt Marrickville 1.

DIVISION FIVE

FIRST GRADE: Bossy 1 bt Sydney TUSC 0, Sporting SCC 2 bt Homenetmen 1, Macquarie Sports 4 bt Earlwood Hermes 2, AVA United 6 bt Liverpool Olympic 0, Kosciusko 3 bt Sydney United Kings 0, Lithgow Workmen 1 drew UTS 1.

SECOND GRADE: Bossy 3 bt Sydney TUSC 2, Sporting SCC 3 bt Homenetmen 0, Macquarie Sports 3 drew Earlwood Hermes 3, Liverpool Olympic 2 bt AVA United 1, Kosciusko 6 bt Sydney United Kings 1, Kellyville Kolts 5 bt Sporting SSC 2, Lithgow Workmen 2 bt UTS 0.

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Sutherland Sharks 1 drew Nepean Panthers 1, Gladesville Ravens 3 bt Sydney United 1, NSW Inst/Academy 4 bt Shoalhaven Assoc 0, UWS Macarthur Rams 1 bt NNSW ITC/Academy 0, Marconi Fairfield 5 bt Central Coast 1, Gladesville Ravens 3 bt Sydney United 1.

SECOND GRADE: Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Nepean Panthers 0, Sydney United 4 bt Gladesville Ravens 1, NSW INST/Academy 5 bt Shoalhaven Association 1, NNSW ITC/Academy 2 bt UWS Macarthur Rams 0, Marconi Fairfield 5 bt Central Coast 0.

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Eastern Suburbs 4 bt Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 2, Wollongong Wolves 3 bt Bathurst City 0, St George Association 13 bt Bankstown United 0, Manly Warringah 2 bt Roselands 0.

SECOND GRADE: Eastern Suburbs 3 drew Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 3, Wollongong Wolves 4 bt Bathurst City 0, St George Association 6 bt Bankstown United 1, Manly Warringah 1 bt Roselands 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Sutherland Sharks 1 drew Leichhardt Tigers 1, Manly Warringah vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Blacktown City 3 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Sydney Olympic 4 bt Sydney United 1, Southern Branch 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Southern Districts 3 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Marconi Fairfield 1 bt Eastern Suburbs 0.

UNDER 14: Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0, Manly Warringah vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Blacktown City 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Sydney Olympic 1 drew Sydney United 1, Southern Branch 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Southern Districts 3 bt Central Coast 1, Newcastle Breakers 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 0, Marconi Fairfield 5 bt Eastern Suburbs 0.

UNDER 15: Sutherland Sharks 3 bt Leichhardt Tigers 2, Manly Warringah vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Blacktown City 4 bt Parramatta Eagles 1, Sydney Olympic 1 drew Sydney United 1, Macarthur Rams 1 bt Southern Branch 0, Southern Districts 3 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 1 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Marconi Fairfield 0 drew Eastern Suburbs 0.

UNDER 16: Gladesville Hornsby 1 bt Central Coast 0, Leichhardt Tigers 2 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Manly Warringah vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Blacktown City 0 drew Parramatta Eagles 0, Sydney Olympic 6 bt Sydney United 0, Southern Branch 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Central Coast 1 drew Southern Districts 1, Wollongong Wolves 3 bt Newcastle Breakers 1, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0.

QUEENSLAND

YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN!



It's a long way from the Emerald Isle to Brisbane Australia but for a 24 year old Irishman, it was a trip that changed his life for good. Kieran Cooper was born in Dublin

in September, 1962 and claims he was born with a soccer ball in his hands. Spending all his junior football days with St. John Bosco club, he moved into senior football with Tek United in 1984.

Spending only one season with Tek, he moved to Irish premier team Bray Wanderers where he played the 85/86 season.

In March 1986, Cooper arrived in Brisbane to join Brisbane City and to play in the national league. At the end of the season he returned to Dublin and rejoined Bray Wanderers for their 86/87 stint Leaving Ireland for the second time, Cooper came back to Brisbane and played again with City who were now in the local Brisbane competition.

The previous season with City had been at the time there were northern and southern divisions of the national competition. The subsequent restructuring of the national league had a result that saw Brisbane City relegated, along with six other clubs, leaving City no where to go but to the XXXX League.

Cooper was made numerous offers to go south and play for other national league teams but because of his contract with City and an extremely high transfer price the club put on him, Cooper feels it stopped his chances.

"They (Brisbane City) were asking \$40,000.00 and no one could afford to pay that in 1987," Cooper said.

"They weren't stopping me going, but they priced me off the market."

Although a little upset about the whole affair at the time, Cooper stayed with City for another three years.

During that time the club won numerous trophies including the premiership in 1988 and then the championship in 1990.

Cooper himself achieved the status of the leagues leading goal scorer in 1987, 1988, he tied in 1989 and missed it in 1990.

Four years had sped by since Cooper first came to Australia and in 1991 he moved camp south of the river and joined Rockdale Rovers.

For the next seven years, Cooper walked away with the honour of being the leading goalscorer of Queensland's premier league.

In regular fixtures only, which does not include cup games or finals series. He has played since 1987 to date, 244 games and has scored 206 goals. For Rockdale alone, he has played 159 matches for 146 goals. Not a bad average in anyone's book.

Cooper retired from the game at the end of the 1997 season but has again strapped on the boots for Rockdale.

"I just missed it too much," Cooper said.

"I felt I could still play at this level and I found it very hard sitting and watching the lads play in the last Grand Final.

"Although we are top of the league, the competition is wide open and it is anyone's guess at this stage."

In addition to playing again, Cooper is Rockdale's Development Officer and

is much involved with the juniors at the club. And he has nothing but praise for the team's coach Peter Bannon.

"I have never ever seen a first grade coach put in so much of his own time towards the development of the clubs junior players and junior coaches.

"He's excellent," Cooper said.

With his club sitting on top of the ladder, and Cooper again sitting on top of the leading goalscorers list (with Scott Roker of Wynnum), Cooper was confident of a good season but felt it was too early to predict a final outcome.

The second round of the State-wide Queensland Cup competition was completed in Brisbane at the weekend with no major upsets but with several premier league clubs pushed to the wire by the lower division semi-pro and amateur leagues.

In what was almost the upset of the Cup, premier league silverbacks Brisbane City had to rely on a penalty before knocking out neighbouring club Newmarket from the competition.

Brisbane City found themselves reeling after only four minutes when Newmarket striker William Walsh put the semi-pro club ahead with a shock opening goal.

Newmarket, with no big name players, fought valiantly to hold their lead to half time after Brisbane City bombed numerous scoring chances.

Brisbane City striker Royce Brownlie must have felt he left his scoring boots at home but he wasn't alone as his teammates were denied several other chances after a man of the match performance from Newmarket keeper Ian Walsh.

City finally got back onto level terms five minutes after the resumption when former national league defender Mark Battistin landed the first of a double.

Battistin finished off a cross with a low shot through a congested goalmouth which left Walsh stranded.

In a scrappy affair, City got their noses in front midway through the second half when Brownlie was fouled in the box enabling Battistin to score from the penalty spot.

The penalty came five minutes after Brisbane City had an appeal for an earlier foul in the box disallowed.

At Dittmer Park, premier league side Mt Gravatt defied what some were tipping as a possible upset when they downed semi-pro side Capalaba 2-0 with relative ease.

Mt Gravatt, whose premier league form has been indifferent, had the game wrapped up at half time with a deserved 2-0 lead.

Striker Glen Kolpak opened the scoring for the homies tucking a shot past Capalaba keeper Craig Blackburn after latching on to a cross from Craig Collins which was dummied by Darryl Grundy.

Former Brisbane striker's midfielder Andy Brayshaw gave Mt Gravatt their second one minute from the break slamming home a cross from Andy Garwood-Gowers on the left.

The second half was not nearly as lively with Mt Gravatt unlucky not to extend their half time lead on another three occasions.

Blackburn made three spectacular diving saves to keep Capalaba in with an outside chance but the semi-pro club lacked penetration and rarely tested the solid Mt Gravatt defence.

Grundy missed the first second half opportunity in the 55th minute snapping a shot from 18 metres goalbound before Blackburn managed to dive and tip the attempt over the bar.

Kolpak then struck a powerful shot which was pushed wide of the upright by Blackburn before the nuggety keeper tipped a Collins shot which looked goal-bound into the top corner over the crossbar.

In the only premier league clash of the round, Wynnum were drawn against Bundaberg for the third successive year in round two with Wynnum emerging victors 2-nil.

At Dakabin, premier league club Ipswich found themselves scoreless at half time against amateurs North Pine before John Clark, Peter McKendrick and Stew Drunkeld completed a second half rout for a 3-nil win.



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In other matches, Rockdale Rovers, Toowoomba, Taringa, Gold Coast and Brisbane Lions all had big wins but only after some of the premier league clubs led narrowly or were level at half time.

Taringa were given a first half fright by Margate with both sides going to the break 2-all before the premier leaguers ran away for a 6-2 win.

Toowoomba also were just ahead 2-1 at half time against Samford before pulling on a further three second half goals to win 5-1.

At Cleveland, Rockdale faced stern first half opposition from Redlands going in at half time with only a one goal lead before finishing the clash six goals clear.

In contrast Brisbane Lions and Gold Coast both banged in five first half goals each against respective rivals Oxley United and Mitchelton before running out 6-nil winners.

With the Queensland Cup entering the third round before the country clubs join the competition, Bayside and Moggill remain the only amateur clubs remaining in the knock-out competition.

ROUND 12

15-05	Mt Gravatt	v	Ipswich Knights	7.00pm
15-05	Rockdale Rov	v	Gold Coast	7.00pm
16-05	Toowoomba Utd	v	Brisbane City	2.45pm
16-05	Wynnum	v	Brisbane Lions	2.45pm
16-05	Taringa Rovers	v	B'berg Waves	2.45pm

BRISBANE CITY	-	Spencer Park, Newmarket
BRISBANE LIONS	-	Lions Stadium, Richlands
BUNDABERG WAVES	-	Thabeban Sports Complex, Bundaberg
GOLD COAST CITY	-	Southport SC, Ashmore
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	-	Eric Evans Reserve, Bundamba
MT GRAVATT	-	Dittmer Park, Mt Gravatt
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	-	Underwood Park, Rockdale
TARINGA ROVERS	-	Jack Speare Park, Indooroopilly
TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS	-	Gold Park, Toowoomba
WYNNUM	-	Carmichael Park, Tingalpa

QUEENSLAND TABLES

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	P	A	D	Pts
Rockdale Rov	12	8	0	4	31	18	13	24
Brisbane Lions	12	7	2	3	31	20	11	23
Taringa Rovers	12	5	3	4	20	13	7	18
IPSW Knights	10	6	0	4	16	13	3	18
Brisbane City	12	5	3	4	19	17	2	18
Gold Coast	11	3	6	2	18	18	0	15
B'berg Waves	12	4	3	5	19	20	-1	15
Wynnum	12	4	2	6	19	25	-6	14
Mt Gravatt	12	3	3	6	20	30	-10	12
Toowoomba Utd	11	1	2	8	8	27	-19	5

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	P	A	D	Pts
Rocklea Utd	11	10	1	0	44	13	31	31
Capalaba	11	8	0	3	23	12	11	24
Souths Utd	10	4	3	3	20	11	9	15

Slacks Creek	11	4	3	4	24	27	-3	15
Inala City	11	4	1	6	19	30	-11	13
Olympic Utd	10	4	0	6	20	22	-2	12
Beenleigh	10	3	2	5	17	23	-6	11
Redlands Utd	11	2	3	6	13	29	-16	9
Acacia Ridge	11	1	3	7	13	26	-13	6

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	P	A	D	Pts
North Star	10	8	0	2	32	14	18	24
Pine Rivers Utd	11	6	2	3	19	11	8	20
Eastern Subs	10	5	4	1	14	8	6	19
Albany Creek	10	5	3	2	21	16	5	18
Newmarket	10	5	1	4	18	14	4	16
Uni Of Qld	10	4	1	5	15	19	-4	13
The Gap	10	2	1	7	17	31	-14	7
Mitchelton	11	1	3	7	11	22	-11	6
Grange Thistle	10	1	3	6	12	24	-12	6

(Please note tables remain the same)

XXXX QLD CUP

ROUND 2

Clairvaux	0	Moggill Utd	3
Albany Creek	6	Annerley	1
Brisbane City	2	Newmarket	1
Wynnum	2	Bundaberg Waves	0
North Pine	0	Ipswich Knights	3
North Star	2	Brothers United	1
Grange Thistle	4	Park Ridge	0
Acacia Ridge	1	Uni Of Qld	2
Redlands United	0	Rockdale Rovers	6
Mt Gravatt	2	Capalaba	0
Toowoomba United	5	Samford	1
Jimboomba	1	Bayside United	2
Taringa Rovers	6	Margate	2
Gold Coast City	6	Mitchelton	0
Oxley United	0	Brisbane Lions	6
Rocklea United	2	Souths United	3

eat well  live well

PREMIER LEAGUE



LIONS STILL IN THE HUNT

**SPRINGVALE W.E. 1
PRESTON 3**

By Milan Ninovic

Preston Lions kept in the championship hunt with a 3-1 win over Springvale White Eagles on Sunday.

Preston had to come from behind to win, but another three points has moved them temporarily to second spot.

The White Eagles took the lead in the 16th minute, Eric Styczen crossing to the far post where youngster Sam Poutakidis volleyed in.

The lead however, didn't last long as Preston flexed their muscles with three goals in the space of ten minutes.

Kamer Simsek got the first when he pounced on a rebound after Anton Kovacic's long range shot had been blocked.

Six minutes later, Ivan Filipovski scored a goal of real class when he unleashed from 35 metres to find the top corner of Borisav Simic's net.

The Preston demolition was complete in the 33rd minute when Simsek notched his second, capitalising on some poor defence from Simic and Mariano Calomino.

The second half was a much quieter affair, save for a couple of magnificent stops by Preston keeper Lupce Acevski.

Simsek had the chance to make it a hat-trick four minutes before full time but was unlucky when his shot rebounded off the crossbar.

White Eagles: Simic, Calomino (Vodilovski), Mlinar, Oter, Styczen, Nikolic, Gacovski, Rikanovic, Poutakidis, Mandic, Mihajlovic.

Lions: Acevski, Slavski, Kovacic (Buriak), Lisolaski, Filipovski (Ugunovski), Ognenovski, Kozic, Simsek, Spink, Emsovski, Stojcesvki (Talevski).

Referee: Perry Mur

Votes: 3-Ognenovski (PL), 2-Simsek (PL), 1-Poutakidis (SWE)

**ST ALBANS 0
FAWKNER 2**

By Ivan Perkov

Chances, goals, tackles and concussion. This was the script which the Saints and Blues played to.

In a game full of passion Fawknar prevailed away to St Albans 2-0.

Fawknar took the early initiative, they dominated possession in the first half, but St Albans were unlucky on a few occasions. The first 15-20 minutes were even - but slowly the Blues began to pressure the Saints into mistakes which cost them goals.

It was in the 21st minute, that from a John Grimaud free kick, Fawknar took the lead. A foul by one of the Saints, 18 yards from goal, allowed Josip Biskic to lay the ball on for Grimaud's left foot to creep a shot into the net.

Before that goal the Saints forged forward on a few occasions as their midfielders tried to supply crosses and passes, Damir Movric in particular was offensively active up and down the right touch-line.

Again like last week, man on man challenges coupled with the referee's whistle dominated the

first 45 minutes.

This game really epitomised Victorian Premier league soccer, it was uncompromising.

In the second half Fawknar's and Ivan Duzel showed their quality and experience, and along with midfielder Peter Bordignon they ran at the opposition defence at will.

On 52 minutes the Saints brought on 17 year old Kresimir Basic, who played a solid and exuberant second half.

But it was Fawknar and Santo Emmanuele that stole the show with his fourth goal of the season, which had a hint of offside about it. After a scramble in the box Peter Psarros managed to pass to Emmanuele who, while slipping, managed to swivel and place the ball into the St Albans net.

Towards the end one noteworthy was when Enzo De Santis, who had come on, suffered concussion and effectively ended without any stoppage time.

Thankfully it was nothing dangerous.

Saints: Vunderl, Rados, Raspudic, Colina, Karl, Dragicevic (Basic), Razov, Sianidis, Saric, Razov (Vladakovic), Movric (Klarica).

Blues: Gonzalez, Collins, Grimaud, P Ferrante, Schipano, V Ferrante, Bordignon, Bikic, Emmanuele (Di Sauro), Duzel (Tramontana), Psarros (De Santis).

Referee: Robert Caminiti

Votes: 3-Bikic (FB), 2-Duzel(FB), 1-Movric (StA).

**SUNSHINE 1
ALTONA EAST 0**

By Soccer Weekly

Sunshine Georgies recorded a much needed 1-0 win over Altona East on Sunday at Chaplin Reserve.

The Georgies remain on the bottom of the table but their third victory of the season will give them a boost as they battle to avoid relegation.

Sunshine welcomed back Anthony Magnacca from Canberra Cosmos and he had an immediate impact on the team's fortunes, setting up the only goal of the game which came in the first minutes of play.

Magnacca, just back from trials with Bolton Wanderers in England, played a superb through ball for Alfonso Opazo to tuck the ball away past Phoenix 'keeper Sam Frangos.

After the Georgies dominated the first fifteen minutes, the match settled into an even affair although the home side did have a couple of good opportunities in the second period, most notably when Michael Kathopoulos missed when the Georgies outnumbered Altona by four to one in defence.

The loss leaves Altona still a candidate for relegation and this week they have a big derby game against Altona Magic. For Sunshine, things aren't getting any easier, they travel to the in-form Preston Lions.

Georgies: Wardle, Razanitis, Marinkovic, Kanesoulis, Allain, Magnacca, De La Plaza (Stojanovski), Recchia, Opazo, Kathopoulos, Hermosilla.

Phoenix: Frangos, Antoniadis, Kapulica, De Armicis, Dimitrelos, Donnelly, L Catalano (Catalano), Groidis (Davis), Bartol (Petrovski), Papadopoulos, Angelos.

Referee: Carlo Graser

RUSMIR WINS IT FOR BULLEEN

**SOUTH DANDENONG 0
BULLEEN 1**

By Kevin Christopher

Bulleen bounced back from last week's 0-4 drubbing at Port Melbourne with a hard fought 1-0 win at South Dandenong on Saturday afternoon.

Sava Rusmir was the hero with a 25 metre free-kick which seemed to be aimed at the onrushing pack of players but took a wicked bounce which deceived Souths keeper Chris Roche and found its way into the net.

The home team then thought they'd equalised four minutes from half-time when Ahmet Gurpinar's powerful header was cleared off the line by Robert Stojcevski, but referee Bruno D'Aniello waved play on after glancing at his assistant.

Both defences dominated a dire first half, with new South Dandenong recruit Anton Buhic looking a shrewd signing. Hailing from Croatia, Melbourne Knights had expressed interest in Buhic but recommended a year at Premier League level before they signed him.

The second half provided the better spectacle, with Agim Sherifovski and Anthony Grbac both going close for the visitors, while Carlo Villani

had his chip cleared off the line by John Waddell.

Villani should definitely have scored after 73 minutes when presented with an open goal but his soft shot allowed the Bulleen defence to scramble the ball clear.

Having received their scare, Bulleen pressed forward with monotonous regularity down the left hand side, with Sherifovski and Rusmir creating a number of serious problems for Roche. Viktor Memeti powered forward in search of a late equaliser, but Rusmir went closest at the other end when his rasping shot

from a tight angle hit the upright with Roche well beaten.

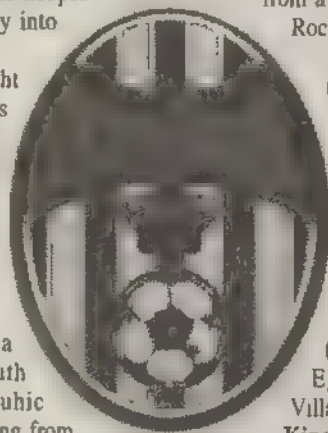
Rusmir almost added to his 34th minute goal on two other occasions in the second half but a combination of poor finishing and brave goalkeeping combined to keep the margin to a single goal.

South: Roche, Buhic (Runje), Moodie, Gurpinar, Mucaj, Memeti, Pelja (Tarevski), Kirichian, Van Egmond, Wright (Mezensof), Villani

Kings: Keogh, Stojcevski, Everetts, Della Rocca, Waddell, Mazzini, Sherifovski, Tartaglia, Grbac, Babic, Rusmir.

Referee: Bruno D'Aniello

Votes: 3-Waddell (BK), 2-Memeti (SD), 1-Roche (SD).



eat well  live well

ROUND 13 DETAILS

Westvale 2 (Zach, Brown) - Preston Lions 2 (Spink 2)
Melbourne Raiders 1 (Cuculeski) - South Dandenong 4 (Memeti, Van Egmond 2, Villani)

ROUND 14 DETAILS

South Dandenong 0 - Bulleen Inter Kings 1 (Rusmir)
St Albans Saints 0 - Fawknar Blues 2 (Grimaud, Emmanuele)
Altona Magic 1 (Trifunov) - Bentleigh East 0
Springvale White Eagles 1 (Poutakidis) - Preston Lions 3 (Simsek 2, Filipovski)

	P	W	D	L	P	A	Pts
Port Melbourne Sharks	13	9	3	1	33	12	30
Preston Lions	14	9	1	4	32	19	28
Green Gully Cavaliers	13	8	3	2	26	14	27
Fawknar Blues	14	7	2	5	23	16	23
Melbourne Raiders	13	6	3	4	19	20	21
Bentleigh Greens	14	5	5	4	27	16	20
Altona Magic	14	5	3	6	20	30	18
Bulleen Inter Kings	14	4	5	5	17	18	17
South Dandenong	14	4	4	6	23	24	16
Altona East	14	4	4	6	15	21	16
St Albans Saints	14	4	2	8	15	22	14
Springvale White Eagles	14	3	4	7	19	26	13
Westvale	13	2	5	6	14	27	11
Sunshine Georgies	14	3	2	9	13	31	11

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Saturday May 16

Port Melbourne Sharks v Springvale White Eagles - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve
Preston Lions v Sunshine Georgies - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium
Altona East v Altona Magic - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park
Bentleigh Greens v St Albans Saints - kick off 3pm at Kingston Heath Reserve
Fawknar Blues v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 3pm at Smith Reserve

Monday May 17

Bulleen Inter Kings v Westvale - kick off 8.15pm at Veneto Club.
Green Gully Cavaliers v South Dandenong - kick off 8.15pm at Green Gully Reserve



VICTORIAN LEAGUES



CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 7

Oakleigh 1 - Western Suburbs 2
Yarraville Glory 0 - Westgate 1
Melbourne City 3 - Northcote City 4
Lalor United 1 - Springvale City 0
North Geelong Warriors 1 - Heidelberg United 2
Richmond 1 - Doncaster Rovers 5
Werribee City 1 - Kingston City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg United	7	6	1	0	20	9	19
lador United	7	5	1	1	15	6	16
Oakleigh	7	5	0	2	10	5	15
Westgate	7	4	1	2	12	7	13
Nth Geelong Warriors	7	3	2	2	9	7	11
Northcote City	7	3	1	3	18	12	10
Western Suburbs	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
Kingston City	7	3	1	3	8	12	10
Melbourne City	7	3	0	4	14	19	9
Doncaster Rovers	7	2	2	3	13	10	8
Yarraville Glory	7	2	1	4	9	13	7
Richmond	7	1	2	4	8	17	5
Springvale City	7	1	1	5	3	14	4
Werribee City	7	0	2	5	6	15	2

ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Sunday May 16

Westgate v Werribee City
Doncaster Rovers v Yarraville Glory
Kingston City v Melbourne City
Western Suburbs v Richmond
Springvale City v North Geelong Warriors
Northcote City v Lalor United

Monday May 17

Heidelberg United v Oakleigh (kick off 8.30pm)

DIVISION 2 - ROUND 7

Essendon 5 - East Richmond 0
Frankston Pines 1 - Satellite City Rovers 1
Thomastown/Regent 2 - Croydon City Arrows 2
Knox City 5 - Geelong 1
Ringwood City 2 - Frankston Strikers 1
Cranbourne Comets 0 - Altona City 2
Diamond Valley United 1 - Old Scotch Waverley 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	7	5	2	0	17	1	17
Frankston Pines	7	4	3	0	22	6	15
Knox City	7	5	0	2	16	6	15
Cranbourne Comets	7	3	3	1	14	9	12
Old Scotch Waverley	7	4	0	3	11	11	12
East Richmond	7	3	2	2	9	9	11
Geelong	7	3	2	2	12	15	11
Altona City	7	3	1	3	7	11	10
Thomastown/Regent	7	2	3	2	9	9	9
Ringwood City	7	2	1	4	11	19	7
Croydon City Arrows	7	1	2	4	5	16	5
Satellite City Rovers	7	1	2	4	5	16	5
Frankston Strikers	7	0	3	4	5	13	3
Diamond V. United	7	0	2	5	10	18	2

ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Saturday May 15

Altona City v Diamond Valley United
Frankston Strikers v Cranbourne Comets
Old Scotch Waverley v Essendon
Geelong v Ringwood City
Croydon City Arrows v Knox City
Satellite City Rovers v Thomastown/Regent
East Richmond v Frankston Pines

DIVISION 3 - ROUND 7

North Coburg United 1 - Banyule City 1
Mooroolbark 2 - Laverton Park 2
Bell Park 1 - Stonnington City 1
Broadmeadows City 0 - Moreland City 2
Fitzroy City 1 - South Springvale 1
Keilor Park 1 - Williamstown 2
South Wantirna 1 - Pascoe Vale 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	7	5	1	1	18	7	16
Moreland City	7	5	1	1	18	8	16
Williamstown	7	4	2	1	19	12	14

CRAZY JOHN'S MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Wantirna	7	4	2	1	13	6	14
Fitzroy City	7	3	3	1	17	12	12
South Springvale	7	2	5	0	8	5	11
North Coburg United	7	2	3	2	11	9	9
Pascoe Vale	7	2	2	3	10	14	8
Laverton Park	7	1	3	3	11	14	6
Keilor Park	7	2	0	5	9	15	6
Bell Park	7	1	3	3	7	13	6
Mooroolbark	7	1	3	3	6	16	6
Broadmeadows City	7	1	2	4	7	15	5
Banyule City	7	0	2	5	8	16	2

ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Saturday May 15

Williamstown v South Wantirna
South Springvale v Keilor Park
Pascoe Vale v North Coburg United
Moreland City v Fitzroy City
Stonnington City v Broadmeadows City
Laverton Park v Bell Park
Banyule City v Mooroolbark

DIVISION 4 - ROUND 7

Chelsea 2 - Croxton Park 2
Langwarrin 6 - Sunbury United 2
Geelong Rangers 2 - Clifton Hill United 2
Keysborough 0 - Lyndale United 1
Corio 2 - Seaford United 1
Melton 3 - Sandringham City 2
Nunawading City 0 - Lalor 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	7	7	0	0	27	7	21
Lyndale United	7	4	2	1	16	12	14
Sandringham City	7	4	1	2	24	14	13
Croxton Park	7	3	4	0	18	11	13
Melton	7	3	2	2	13	12	11
Lalor	7	3	2	2	13	13	11
Seaford United	7	3	1	3	12	16	10
Sunbury United	7	3	0	4	11	14	9
Keysborough	7	3	0	4	11	14	9
Keysborough	7	2	1	4	14	12	7
Nunawading City	7	2	1	4	8	14	7
Corio	7	2	1	4	9	19	7
Clifton Hill United	7	1	2	4	13	18	5
Geelong Rangers	7	1	2	4	9	15	5
Chelsea	7	1	1	5	10	20	4

ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Saturday May 15

Sandringham City v Nunawading City
Seaford United v Melton
Lalor v Chelsea
Lyndale United v Corio
Clifton Hill United v Keysborough
Sunbury United v Geelong Rangers
Croxton Park v Langwarrin

CRAZY JOHN'S MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 5

South Caulfield 3 - Sydenham Park 4
Morwell Pegasus 4 - Mitcham United 2
Endeavour United 8 - Springvale Condors 0
Riversdale 3 - Templestowe Eagles 1

Brunswick City 2 - Monbulk 1
Dandenong 2 - North Sunshine Eagles 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Endeavour United	5	5	0	0	18	3	15
Brunswick City	5	4	1	0	8	4	13
Morwell Pegasus	5	4	0	1	14	4	12
Riversdale	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
Sydenham Park	5	3	1	1	15	11	10
Nth Sunshine Eagles	5	2	1	2	10	14	7
Mitcham United	5	2	0	3	10	12	6
South Caulfield	5	1	1	3	12	15	4
Dandenong	5	1	1	3	8	11	4
Monbulk	5	0	1	4	5	11	1
Springvale Condors	5	1	1	3	3	16	1
Templestowe Eagles	5	0	0	5	6	13	0

ROUND 6 FIXTURES

Saturday May 15

North Sunshine Eagles v Templestowe Eagles
Monbulk v Dandenong
Springvale Condors v Brunswick City
Mitcham United v Endeavour United
Sydenham Park v Morwell Pegasus
South Caulfield v Riversdale

CRAZY JOHN'S MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST -

ROUND 5

Meadow Park 0 - Elwood City 1
South Yarra 1 - Ballarat 2
Keon Park 2 - Somerton City 4
University of Melbourne 2 - Hoppers Crossing 3
Mill Park 6 - Broadmeadows United 2
Glenroy 3 - Melbourne University 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenroy	5	4	1	0	12	4	13
Hoppers Crossing	5	4	0	1	16	9	12
Ballarat	5	3	2	0	8	4	11
Somerton City	5	2	2	1	13	6	8
Uni. of Melbourne	5	2	2	1	15	18	8
Mill Park	5	2	1	2	11	12	7
Melbourne University	5	1	1	3	10	15	4
Meadow Park	5	1	1	3	5	13	4
Broadmeadows Utd	5	1	2	2	12	16	2
Keon Park	5	0	2	3	6	15	2
South Yarra	5	0	1	4	4	11	1

ROUND 6 FIXTURES

Saturday May 15

Broadmeadows United v Glenroy
Hoppers Crossing v Mill Park
Melbourne University v Meadow Park
Somerton City v University of Melbourne
Ballarat v Keon Park
Elwood City v South Yarra

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST -

ROUND 5

Monash University 1 - Waverley Wanderers 6
Doveton 3 - Dingley City 1
Noble Park 2 - Braeside United 1
Ashburton 1 - Brandon Park 2
Dandenong Inter 3 - Heatherington United 3
Clayton 4 - Newborough/Yallourn 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Waverley Wanderers	5	5	0	0	18	4	15
Clayton	5	4	0	1	11	4	12
Newborough/Yallourn	5	3	1	1	13	8	10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doveton	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Heatherington United	5	3	1	1	11	9	10
Ashburton	5	2	0	3	10	11	6
Noble Park	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
Brandon Park	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Dingley City	5	2	1	2	7	10	4
Monash University	5	1	1	3	8	12	4
Dandenong Inter	5	0	1	4	7	17	1
Braeside United	5	0	0	5	3	11	0

CRAZY JOHN'S MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS

ROUND 6 FIXTURES

Saturday May 15

Newborough/Yallourn v Brandon Park
Heatherington United v Clayton
Braeside United v Dandenong Inter
Dingley City v Noble Park
Waverley Wanderers v Doveton
Monash University v Ashburton

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST -

ROUND 5

Brimbank City 3 - Northern United 1
La Trabe University 1 - Flemington Falcons 4
Keilor United 0 - Whittlesea United 4
North Glenroy 4 - West Preston 2
Darebin United 2 - Watsonia Heights 0
Brimbank 0 - North Reservoir 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whittlesea United	5	4	0	1	11	4	12
North Glenroy	5	4	0	1	10	5	12
Keilor United	5	3	1	1	14	8	10
Darebin United	5	3	0	2	12	6	9
Brimbank City	5	2	3	0	10	7	9
North Reservoir	5	2	2	1	5	7	8
Flemington Falcons	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
Northern United	5	1	1	3	9	14	4
West Preston	5	1	1	3	9	14	4
Watsonia Heights	5	1	1	3	7	13	4
Brimbank	5	1	1	3	5	11	4
La Trabe University	5	1	0	4	8	13	3

ROUND 6 FIXTURES

Sunday May 16

Watsonia Heights v Brimbank
West Preston v Darebin United
North Reservoir v Brimbank City
Whittlesea United v North Glenroy
Flemington Falcons v Keilor United
Northern United v La Trabe University

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST -

ROUND 5

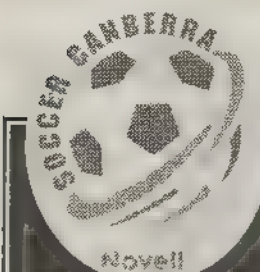
Endeavour Hills 1 - Ivanhoe United 3
Noble Park United 1 - Beaumaris 0
Thornbury United 4 - Newport United 0
Old Camberwell Grammar 0 - Rowville Eagles 3
Parkmore 1 - Collingwood City 5
North Caulfield 1 - Moreland United 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Noble Park United	5	4	0	1	11	7	12
Moreland United	5	3	2	0	9	4	11
Endeavour Hills	5	3	1	1	15	9	10
Ivanhoe United	5	3	1	1	9	3	10
Thornbury United	4	2	2	0	11	5	8
Collingwood City	5	2	2	1	13	8	8
North Caulfield	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
Beaumaris	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Rowville Eagles	5	1	1	3	8	10	4
Old C.I Grammar	5	0	3	2	5	9	3
Parkmore	5	0	2	3	8	17	2
Newport United	5	0	0	5	4	19	0

ROUND 6 FIXTURES

Sunday May 16

Collingwood City v North Caulfield
Rowville Eagles v Parkmore
Moreland United v Endeavour Hills
Newport United v Old Camberwell Grammar
Beaumaris v Thornbury United
Ivanhoe United v Noble Park United



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By Greg Welsh

BIG DANNY'S DEAKIN PIP MONARO JUST THE MAN IN FED CUP THRILLER

When Canberra Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni mentioned to Danny Burt that bottom-of-the-league Queanbeyan City were looking for some help, the big central defender didn't hesitate for a moment.

Burt says, "I've been in that sort of situation before with a team where their struggling, every week's a battle, so I just thought 'why not?'"

"My job is to help them out at the back and try and tighten up the defence."

"It'll be good for my organisational skills as well when it comes back to the NSL season to try and organise the players as well as trying to keep a lid on my game."

It's just one more loop in the rollercoaster ride of Burt's soccer career since he joined up with Newcastle first division club Broadmeadow Magic.

"They picked me up, and their priority up there two years ago when I signed with them was to get me to the NSL, because it was probably my last chance - I'll be 27 in November."

I only played about five games, came down here to trial, got signed and I haven't given them much service. So they've been really great."

Burt and his young family relocated to Canberra without any great hardships thanks to his new Cosmos team-mates. "They've made us feel really welcome down here since we moved in," he says.

"It took me a while to get out of my shell, because I moved from Newcastle and you had to get to know everybody, everybody's their own person - there's some grumpy ones, some sooky ones and it took me a bit of time to get used to everyone but by midway through the season I was really happy."

Burt's first season with the Cosmos understandably provided some mixed emotions. "As a team, it was a bit disappointing I suppose with the run that we had in the first round. Going 13 or 14 straight without a win - that was pretty hard. Once we got the change of coach,

though, when Tommy took over, the team started to put it together and play for one another and believe in ourselves towards the end, which is good."

"I think we can take a lot of learning things from the second half of the season into next year and hopefully we can get a good preparation. I think Tommy's looking at keeping the majority of the team because we were starting to play good but not get the results. We'll have to change that next year and play good as a side."

"The crucial thing is scoring goals. There's so many chances that we missed, we could have won games that we lost by the odd goal. I think next year's going to be a bit more competitive, we just need a good start."

"Personally, I couldn't be happier with my season. I think I cemented my spot in the last few games at the back with my strength in the air. I'm really proud and happy for my first season, and hopefully I can do bigger and better things next year."

Burt says that once his NSL career is over, he'll be returning to Newcastle and Broadmeadow Magic. He wants to re-sign with the club for three or four seasons as a coach or player "and do whatever I can to put my service back into the club because they've been really good for me."

But based on Burt's solid performances in the NSL last year, the Magic may have a while to wait yet. And anyway, Burt's got his hands full with Queanbeyan City at the moment.

"I said to them it's going to take a bit of time, it may take three or four weeks before the boys start to get a bit of fitness under their belt and they can last a whole game. We were out there in the second half [last week] and we got beat 5-1."

We were only down 2-1 at half-time [but] they had no legs left and it was just like carrying the whole team. First things first they're going to need a bit of fitness and then they can go on with the game, maybe we can squeeze out a few results with some of the teams. I like to see the underdogs get up and give 'em a bit of stick."

Canberra Deakin booked a place against Canberra Olympic in the 1999 ACT Federation Cup Final thanks to an extra-time golden goal by striker Ben Deighan in Wednesday night's semi-final win against Monaro.

Deighan's strike, which came four minutes into extra-time, completed a remarkable Houdini act by the Deakin side which had looked destined for a 1-0 defeat only moments earlier.

That was before a goal to wing-back Anthony Rakic deep in second-half injury time threw Deakin a lifeline into the final.

Deakin coach Ian Shaw was an obviously jubilant man after the match. "It was a game that was probably going to be decided only by the single goal."

Monaro are a class outfit. They battled all the way but I don't think they had the legs at the end. It was just a matter of getting the equaliser.

I was really happy with the way we didn't drop our heads at all. We went a goal down and we just continued to fight. We played on, right to the final whistle."

The game was as even a contest as you are ever likely to see

Unfortunately, this meant that neither side could manage to dominate in the middle of the park for very long, and the game was a scrappy, but hard-fought affair as a result.

Few goal-scoring opportunities fell to either side in a scoreless first-half, although a goal-mouth scramble at either end provided some anxious moments. But Deakin's Anthony Barac and Monaro's Jim Baxter each found only defenders bodies, goalkeepers hands or the woodwork instead of the opening goal.

The second-half picked up where the first had left off, with neither side willing to concede an inch. Referee Chris Blain handed out three yellow cards in the space of twenty minutes as the intensity continued to build.

Deakin's Michael Barac came on as substitute for Gaby Exposito in the 62nd minute, and soon after had almost conjured up a sensational goal.

Barac's strike from 25 metres seemed to be destined for the top corner of the net before a flying Tony Guarino managed to palm the ball wide.

But the game finally got the goal it so badly needed in the 77th minute when a long throw by Monaro's Brent Chick was flicked and nudged all the way to Lazar Simeonov at the back post. Simeonov bundled the ball across the line to send Monaro ahead 1-0.

The next sixteen minutes produced the best football of the match, as the park seemed to open up as the Deakin players took more and more risks.

Monaro captain Danny Macor came close to extending the lead on a number of occasions, but was unable to find the net - due mainly to some extraordinary goalkeeping by Pedro Pavez.

Then just when it seemed all over, a David Beckham-style in-swinging cross from Deakin's Adam Williams found a leaping Anthony Rakic in front of goal.

Rakic nodded the ball past the exposed Guarino to bring up the equaliser and send the Deakin bench into rapture.

Monaro still had time to mount one more valiant attempt before the referee's whistle sounded the end of normal time.

Still on a high after their dramatic escape, Deakin only needed four minutes of extra-time to find the golden goal.

Second-half substitute Vince Bodo found his way into the Monaro penalty area before cracking the ball square across to Deighan at the far post.

The Deakin striker calmly knocked the ball into the back of the net to give his side a dramatic win.

Shaw said he is looking forward to the final. "It'll be good. I'm looking forward to playing Olympic. We played them out at Bruce Stadium a fortnight ago and it ended up being a nil-all draw."

I think we were probably both at a position in the table where we both didn't want a loss. Now that we've got a win under our belts we'll look forward to playing some football."

Monaro moved to equal second-place in the ACT Premier League with a hard-fought 2-0 win over a valiant Canberra Olympic at O'Connor Oval on Sunday.

Monaro led 1-0 throughout most of the match thanks to Lazar Simeonov's first-half strike, and held out a determined Olympic outfit that refused to lay down despite the sending-off of defender Peter Mazis in the 35th minute.

Mazis' tackle from behind on Simeonov, who had skipped clear of the Olympic defence, forced the referee to brandish the red card, and momentarily sent Olympic into disarray.

Four minutes later, Monaro took full toll as Jimmy Baxter charged down the left flank before cutting a ball back to Simeonov in front of goal. The striker showed composure by rounding Olympic keeper Angelo Konstantinou and slotting into the unguarded net.

But over the next hour Olympic matched it with their opponents despite being a man short. "I thought they played better with ten men," said Monaro caretaker-coach Andrew Monterosso after the game. "They attacked more. It's always the case I suppose when you're a man down and 1-0 down."

But as Olympic pushed more players forward they were often left exposed at the back, and Monaro midfielder Joe Campagna collected a goal just three minutes from full-time after a pass from his captain Danny Macor.

The win was an important one for Monaro, particularly after their disappointing loss to Deakin mid-week. "From Wednesday night the boys improved 100%, they got stuck more into the game today," said Monterosso.

The Monaro coach was particularly impressed with midfielder John Rakic - "He had a blinder today," Monterosso said, "probably the best on the park for me."

A controversial finish to Saturday night's ACT Premier League game at Greenway Oval soured a brilliant performance by the Capital City Suns, as the floodlights went out with only two minutes left in the match and the Suns 4-0 ahead of the Burns Club.

The game's starting time had been re-scheduled during the previous week, but an administrative mix-up meant the lights were still set to the original starting time of 6 p.m.

So, at precisely 9 p.m. with the game deep into second-half stoppage-time and the Suns seemingly cruising to an easy victory, darkness abruptly ended the match and left the result in doubt.

Referee Ben Williams had little option but to lead the players off the pitch. It is unknown at this stage whether the game will be officially abandoned and replayed, or whether the result will be allowed to stand.

It was a match that the Suns had dominated from the outset, although, to their credit, Burns managed to stave off their opponents for two-thirds of the match while occasionally forcing some excellent saves out of Suns' keeper Tony Giannasca. But when the goals did come, they came in a flurry.

Suns striker Gus Cerro had seemed the unluckiest man on the park after having twice struck the crossbar from free-kicks in the 16th and 56th minutes, but he was finally rewarded with a goal after a deft one-two with striking partner Tony Lemezzina left him with only Burns' keeper Matt Melgaard to beat.

Burns responded with renewed vigour, but two goals to Suns' midfielder David Stambolziev and one to Lemezzina - all within five minutes - sealed their fate.

The first came from an Ilja Prenzowski cross which Stambolziev expertly headed into the far corner of the net. Melgaard could only look on as Stambolziev notched up his second soon after with a precision shot from Cerro's deflected corner.

Lemezzina capped off a fine game with a penalty goal after a Burns defender had handled a Pat Phommaseisy cross. With the points apparently already decided, Suns coach Bill Dojcinoski rewarded Lemezzina, Cerro and left-half Yuki Onda with an early shower, a few minutes before the game reached its bizarre conclusion.

Dojcinoski was later full of praise for two-goal hero Stambolziev. "Coming from the reserve grade last year, I'm very happy with him," the coach said.

"He had a new role tonight, because we are missing three players from our starting line-up."

***In other games, the top-of-the-table clash between Belconnen United and Weston Creek has ended in a 1-1 draw. The Creek's Steve Lazzari scored in the 8th minute

only to have Luke Larfield even the scoreline 14 minutes later. Vince Bodo bagged a double as Juventus beat the University of Canberra 3-0, with Gaby Exposito grabbing the other goal from a penalty.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE Division 1

Uni of Canberra	0	Canberra Deakin	3
Queanbeyan City	3	Gungahlin Ju	5
Weston Crk Royals	1	Belconnen Utd	1
Canberra Olympic	0	Monaro	2
Burns Club	0*	Capital City Suns	4*

* may be subject to appeal

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belconnen United	5	4	1	0	0	22	4	14
Monaro	5	3	2	0	0	19	5	13
Weston Crk Royals	5	3	2	0	0	12	5	13
Capital City Suns	5	3	1	0	1	13	5	11*
Gungahlin Juventus	5	2	1	0	2	11	8	8
Canberra Olympic	5	2	0	1	2	6	6	7
Canberra Deakin	5	1	1	1	2	5	5	6
Uni of Canberra	5	1	0	0	4	9	14	3
Burns Club	5	1	0	0	4	4	21	3*
Queanbeyan City	5	0	0	0	5	6	31	0

* may be subject to appeal

Under 23: Uni of Canberra 2 Canberra Deakin 1, Queanbeyan City 0 Gungahlin Juventus 18, Weston Creek Royals 1 Belconnen United 1, Canberra Olympic 2 Monaro 3, Burns Club 4 Capital City Suns 1.

Under 19: Uni of Canberra 4 Canberra Deakin 4, Queanbeyan City 0 Gungahlin Juventus 6, Weston Creek Royals 1 Belconnen United 4, Canberra Olympic 2 Monaro 1, Burns Club 0 Capital City Suns 2.

Division 2

Belwest	0	O'Connor Knights	2
Tuggeranong	4	Sabres FC	1
White Eagles	0	Cooma	1

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
O'Connor Knights	5	5	0	0	0	12	1	15
Tuggeranong	5	4	0	0	1	15	6	12
Cooma	5	4	0	0	1	10	7	12
ANU	4	1	1	0	2	12	10	5
Belwest	4	1	1	0	2	8	11	5
White Eagles	5	1	1	0	3	6	8	5
Sabres FC	5	0	1	0	4	3	16	2
ADFA	3	0	0	0	3	3	10	0

Reserves: Belwest 0 O'Connor Knights 2, Tuggeranong 6 Sabres FC 1, White Eagles 3 Cooma 1.

Points: Tuggeranong 15, O'Connor Knights 12, ANU 8, Cooma 6, White Eagles 6, Belwest 5, Sabres FC 3, ADFA 0.

ACT STATE LEAGUE

Division 1: Canberra City 2 Valley Blues 2, Ginninderra 5 Burns 0, ANU 9 Southern Spirit 2, Belconnen United 3 Uni of Canberra 1, Monaro Bye.

Division 2: Canberra City 2 Valley Blues 1, Ginninderra 2 Burns 3, Tuggeranong 3 ANU 5, Uni of Canberra 0 Belconnen United 4, Belwest 6 Gungahlin Juventus 5.

Division 3: Harmonie 2 Uni of Canberra-II 0, Valley Blues 3 ANU 2, Canberra City 2 Belconnen United 5, Uni of Canberra 3 Tuggeranong 2.

Division 4: ANU-II 6 Weston Creek Royals 3, Valley Blues 1 ANU 3, Uni of Canberra 2 Burns 1, Harmonie 3 Uni of Canberra-II 1.

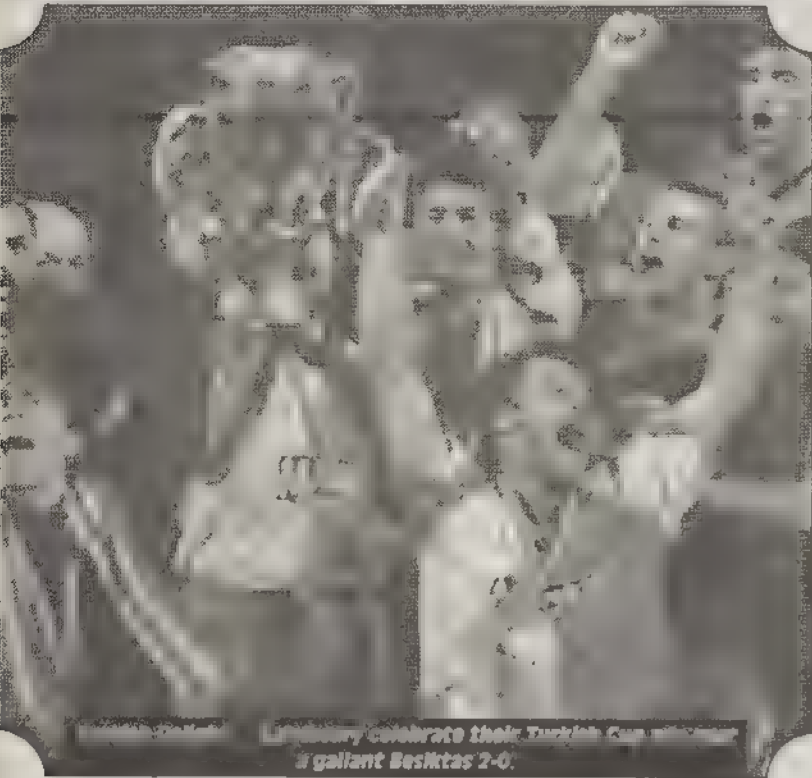
Masters: Canberra City 5 ANU 2, Belwest 4 Uni of Canberra 4, Belconnen 2 White Eagles 4, Kambah Old Boys 4 St Francis 3, Tuggeranong 7 Valley Blues 0.

Youth: Southern Spirit 2 Belconnen 6, Tuggeranong 1 Radford College 0, Belwest 3 Belconnen 2.

There are no games in the ACT Premier League next weekend due to

Sunday May 16 - Federation Cup Final
Canberra Olympic v Canberra Deakin
AIS Athletics Pitch

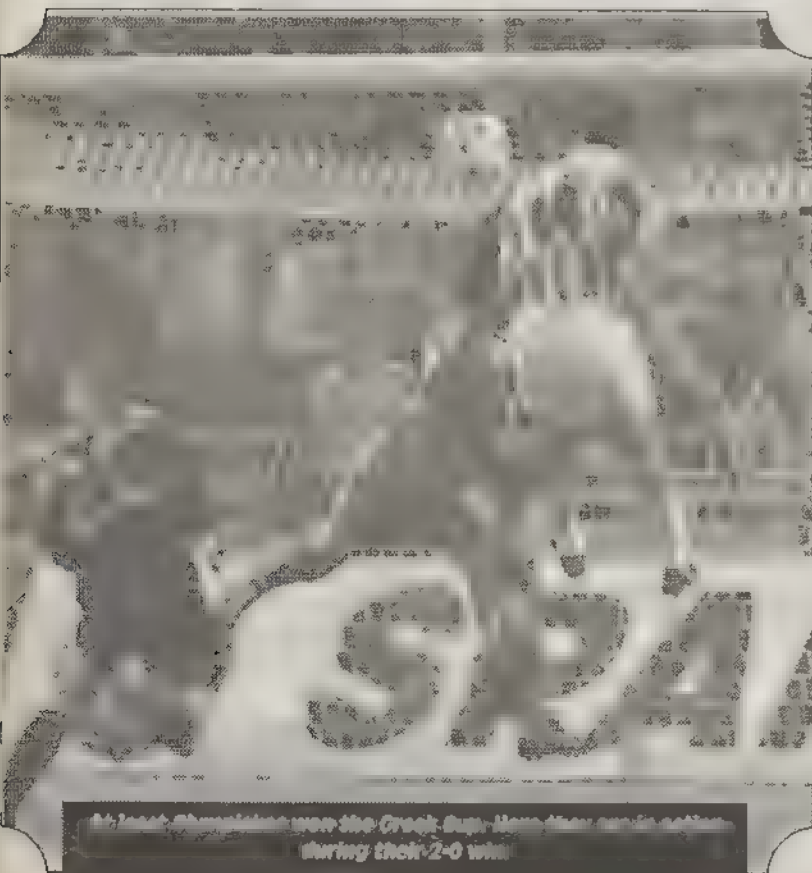
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Liverpool celebrate their Turkish Cup win over a gallant Besiktas 2-0.



Real's Bortolini during their 2-0 win over Espanol. The glamour club of Spanish football lost on the weekend. Details on page 26.



Shenouda scores the Greek Cup. Here they are in action during their 2-0 win.



Stewart Zamboni scores the Greek Cup. Here they are in action during their 2-0 win.



Real Madrid win 2-0 With Petit, Kaus et al they have the power. Uk starts on page 27.

ITALY

Flashy Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla set up one goal and scored another within two minutes Saturday night as Parma rallied to a 3-1 victory against Inter Milan at San Siro stadium in an early league match of Week 32.

Asprilla's deeds spoilt the home fans' delight after 25th-minute goal by Brazilian striker Ronaldo who had given Inter a 1-0 first-half lead.

Ronaldo, cheered by the same fans who had thrown insults and objects at him two weeks ago, produced one of his best performances this season showing he was close to his top form again.

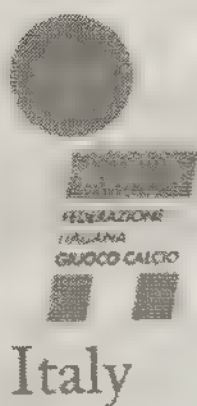
Ronaldo tonked home his 12th season goal in only 17 matches after being repeatedly sidelined with knee tendinitis.

The Brazilian player had the chance to improve his total in the 65th but failed to convert a penalty kick which could have narrowed Inter's gap to 3-2.

Parma, although resting some key players such as Hernan Crespo, Enrico Chiesa and Juan Sebastian Veron for Wednesday's UEFA Cup final against Olympique Marseille in Moscow, overwhelmed Inter in the second half after looking at the mercy of the home team in the first 45 minutes.

Three minutes before scoring with a powerful right drive, Ronaldo hit the bar with a left shot and had other serious threats to the Parma goal repelled by national team keeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Lazio entered the 32nd week of the 34-round the Serie A campaign with a narrow one-point lead over AC Milan.



TYRO TINO SINKS

ROY'S INTER

It also marked the first loss under Roy Hodgson, signed as Inter's fourth coach this season — and only for the last four Serie A rounds.

The English coach debuted on Inter's bench with an impressive 5-4 victory on the road at AS Roma the previous Monday.

Croat midfielder Mario Stanic headed in Parma's equalizer in the 47th minute, from a perfect corner kick by Asprilla.

The Colombian star, often relegated on the substitutes bench, made it 2-1 two minutes later with a lob past Inter's French goalie Sebastien Fre.

Midfielder Diego Fuser scored Parma's third goal with a powerful long-distance shot in the 62nd.

The defeat against Parma did not touch off any protest by Inter fans who had hurled stones and bottles at the players' cars after the home loss to Udinese two weeks ago.

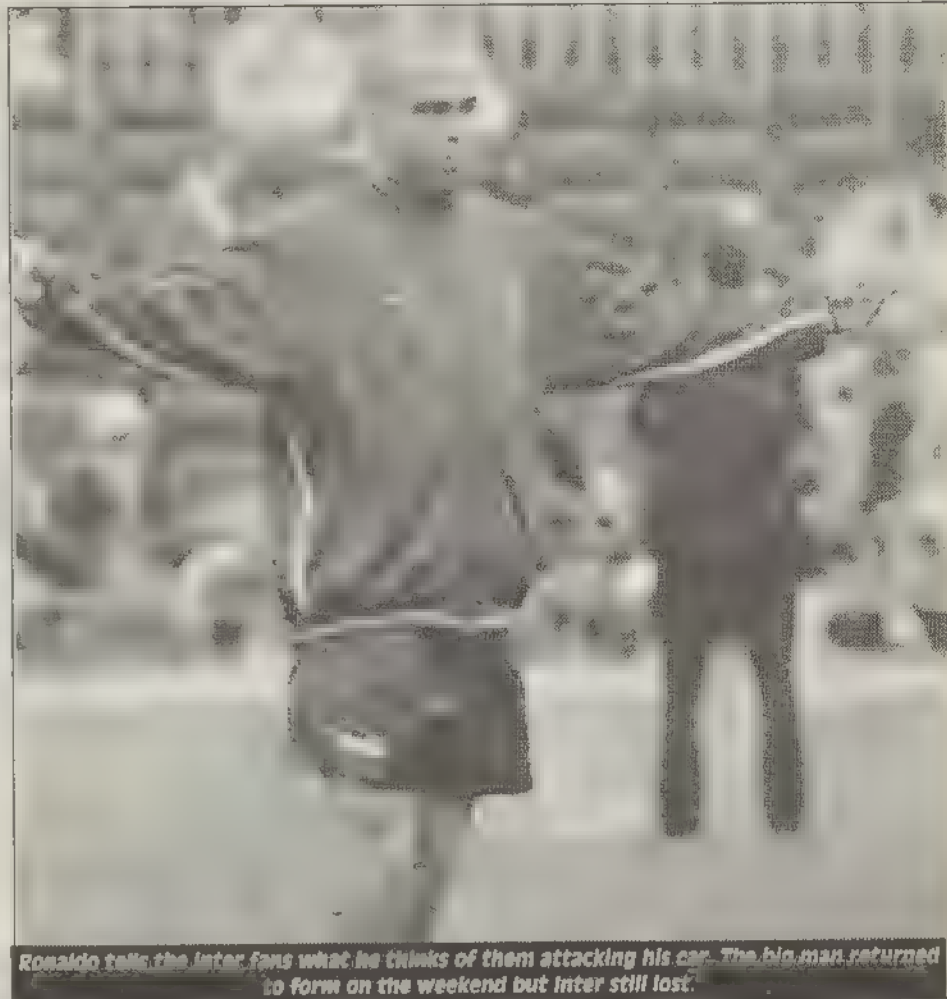
Ronaldo, Inter's hero last season, had been also targeted and one bottle intended to hit his car smashed the windshield of a vehicle behind him, carrying the player's relatives.

The fans misbehavior, and bitter critics about Inter's disappointing season, led to the resignation of Massimo Moratti as president of the club last Thursday.

Moratti, an oil industrialist, still is the club owner and announced a major reshuffle of team officials for the next season.

Inter already signed for the next campaign former Juventus coach Marcello Lippi and is in talks of getting Parma's French defender Lilian Thuram.

In the vital other clashes Lazio beat Bologna 2-0 while Juve lost at home to AC Milan 2-0. Lazio is on top with 65, and AC Milan is on 64.



Ronaldo tells the Inter fans what he thinks of them attacking his car. The big man returned to form on the weekend but Inter still lost.

In the other games on Sunday, Udinese beat Vicenza 3-2, Cagliari beat Salernitana 3-1, Piacenza rocked Roma, winning 2-0, Bari had a surprise 1-0 away win over Perugia and Vinnie Grella's Empoli drew 2-2 with Venezia.

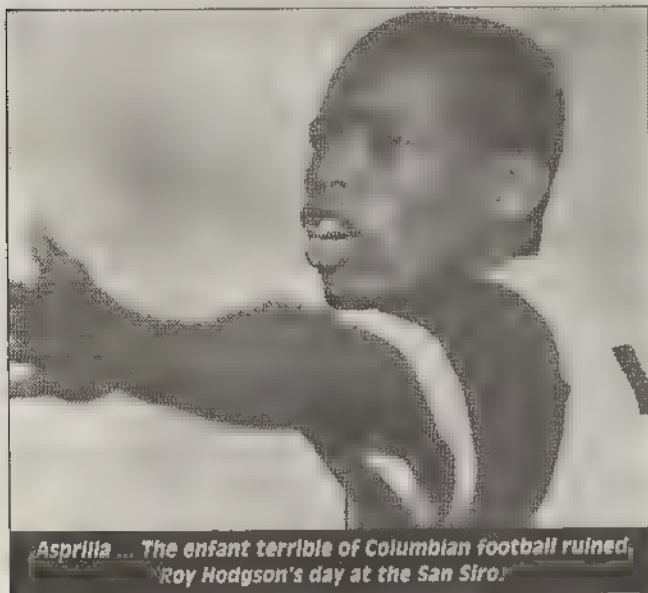
Juventus playmaker Zinedine Zidane, World Footballer of the Year, will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury and may need an operation, ANSA news agency

reported.

It said the Frenchman would travel to Strasbourg to seek advice from a trusted doctor on the injury, which he picked up in a European Cup match in Athens in March.

He might then undergo surgery to remove a fragment of bone from his right knee, the agency said.

Australian fans will keep their fingers crossed that he is still able to play in the FIFA game.



Asprilla ... The enfant terrible of Colombian football ruined Roy Hodgson's day at the San Siro.

Saturday's victory on the road, four days after clinching the Italian Cup, boosted Parma's chances to get one of the top four spots awarding a berth in the Champions League next season.

Inter's 13th season loss left the Milan team in eighth-place with Bologna, a 43 points.



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EUROPE

IT'S PARMA'S CUP: UNKNOWN BECOMES HERO

UEFA Cup finalists Parma won the Italian Cup on the away goals rule when unsung midfielder Paolo Vanoli scored with a late header to seal a pulsating 2-2 draw at Fiorentina.

Alberto Malesani's side, held 1-1 in the first leg, had taken the lead thanks to a brilliant back-heeled goal from Argentine striker Hernan Crespo just before half-time.

But Fiorentina then turned the tie around with goals from Czech defender Tomas Repka on 47 minutes and midfielder Sandro Cois after 63 minutes for a 3-2 aggregate lead.

The Florentines appeared destined to lift the cup for the sixth time and hand Giovanni Trapattoni the 21st trophy of his extraordinary coaching career.

But on 71 minutes striker Enrico Chiesa chipped in a cross from the Parma right and Vanoli rose above the home defence to power an unstoppable header past goalkeeper Francesco Toldo.

The goal gave Parma their second Italian Cup following their only previous triumph in 1992.

It also gave them an automatic place in next year's UEFA Cup and an ideal boost before their final in this season's competition against Olympique Marseille in Moscow next week.

"To score the decisive goal in the cup final is amazing for me," said Vanoli, who has spent most of his career in the lower reaches of the Italian league with Varese, Venezia and Verona.

Malesani was almost too overcome to speak after seeing his side fight from a goal down to beat the club he left in the summer after guiding them to fifth place in Serie A last season.

"It's a wonderful, wonderful moment," he said before shrugging off reporters and running on to the pitch to celebrate with his players.

Parma had taken the lead thanks to a piece of magic from first Croatian midfielder Mario Stanic and then Crespo, who had scored his side's goal in the first leg and has now found the back of the net 27 times this season.

Stanic appeared to have run into a dead end when he was penned in by the corner flag by two Fiorentina defenders but he back-heeled the ball between his markers to free Diego Fuser on the edge of the Fiorentina box.

Fuser fired in a low cross and Crespo outpaced Tomas Repka and flicked the ball behind him and past Toldo with the heel of his right boot to give Parma a 1-0 half-time lead.



Parma coach Malesani thanks his lucky stars he has Paolo Vanoli.

Fiorentina were on level terms two minutes after the restart when Repka capitalised on space in the Parma penalty area to scoop a slightly mis-hit shot past Buffon into the top left hand corner of the net.

Worse was to follow for the visitors when Cois met a free kick from Rui Costa with a fine glancing header which left Buffon flat-footed and gave Fiorentina a 2-1 lead on the night and a 3-2 advantage on aggregate.

Parma refused to be intimidated by a 35,000 crowd at Fiorentina's Artemio Franchi stadium and pressed forward again. Chiesa did well to chip in his cross and Vanoli left Toldo with no chance with a bullet of a header.

"We played well tonight but they scored twice and that's what gave them victory. All credit to them," said Fiorentina marksman Gabriel Batistuta, who for once failed to score.

Asked about the unsung goalscorers Repka, Cois, and Vanoli, the Argentine said: "They're part of the team too. They're maybe not talked about as much as we are but they deserve this moment of glory."

CIAO TOTO: MEMORIES OF ITALIA 90

Salvatore 'Toto' Schillaci, Italy's top goalscorer at the 1990 World Cup, will hang up his boots after a match against a team of German greats later this month.

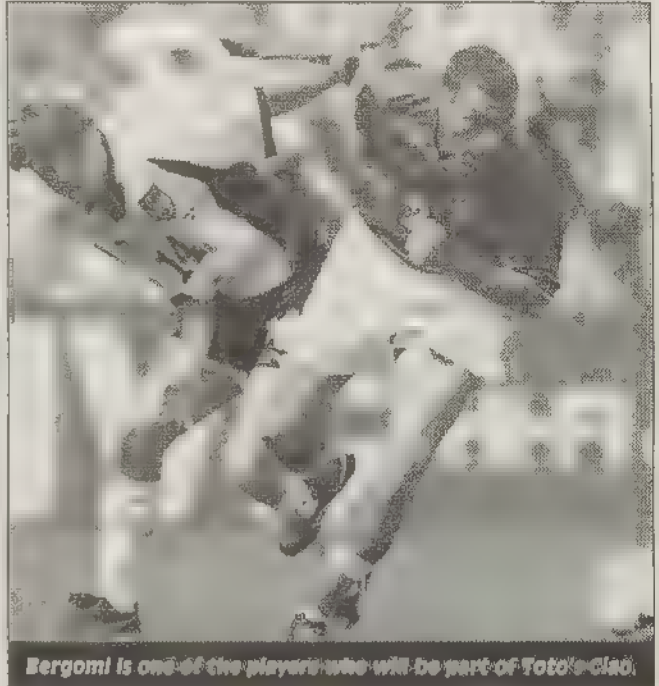
The "Toto" Schillaci Testimonial Day" on May 31 will feature the likes of Roberto Baggio, Franco Baresi, Giuseppe Bergomi and Walter Zenga, with former national coach Azzeglio Vicini in charge.

Facing them will be a team chosen by Udo Lattek, one of the most successful club coaches in Bundesliga history, and including Juergen Klinsmann, Lothar Matthaeus, Rudi Voeller, Juergen Kohler and Andreas Brehme.

Though sad that a career which took the 34-year-old across Italy and on to the Japanese J-League has been ended by injury, the Sicilian said: "That feeling is offset by all

the success I've had.

"Now I want to play my last official match in my city with the lads from the national team, who shared those wonderful moments



Bergomi is one of the players who will be part of Toto's Club.

of Italia 90 with me."

Schillaci was the tournament's top scorer with six goals.

His expressive features when scoring made him a favourite with photographers during the Cup.

WELCOME BACK MISTER ROY!

The notoriously fickle and capricious Italian press mercilessly bagged Roy Hodgson on his return to Italian football. They were, however, forced to eat humble pasta after his first game produced an unbelievable 5-4 result.

Hodgson returned after a two-year absence in a desperate attempt by the club to try and salvage a UEFA Cup place in Inter's last four matches.

However, his appointment as Inter's fourth coach of the season, replacing Romanian Mircea Lucescu, was widely treated as a joke.

But on Tuesday morning, newspapers were falling over themselves to praise the former Blackburn boss, with the Gazzetta dello Sport saying: "Welcome back mister Roy... we're even better friends than before," they gushed.

Lauding Hodgson's decision to give Roberto Baggio a playmaking role in the middle behind Ronaldo and Chulcan Ivan Zamorano, from which the Italian star provided three goal assists, the Gazzetta said:

"You prepared for the match as carefully as ever.

"Nothing out of this world, admittedly, but if you had been able to leave English football a bit earlier, perhaps we would have been spared all the little sto-

ries trotted out for months by the affable Lucescu.

"Welcome back mister Roy. Inter needed to get its dignity back and with a few changes, you have given it back to them."

The Corriere della Sera went even further, headlining a column with "Hodgson performs seven-day miracle" and claiming: "The mistake was not in bringing him back seven days ago, when Inter had gone off the rails, but in having sent him away in the first place."

And the Corriere dello Sport added: "He may not have a magic wand, but he's restored the team spirit and the

good humour of his wayward troops. Inter are the only team this season to have taken six points from Roma."

And if Inter start losing?

Spanish company Via Digital has won exclusive broadcast rights for transmission of World Cup 2002 matches in Spain, a company spokesman announced.

Controlled by the Telefonica telecommunications group, Via Digital have reached an agreement with soccer's international governing body FIFA to exclusively broadcast the 64 World Cup matches through-

out Spain.

World Cup 2002 is being jointly hosted by Japan and South Korea.

Via Digital have also secured the broadcast rights for the 1999 Confederation Cup in Mexico and has first refusal for future World Championship club matches which will be organised by FIFA.

The 1998 World Cup was broadcast in Spain by TVE, the state television service.

French first division side Strasbourg invoked a clause in its contract with Czech international libero Jan

Suchoparek, which will keep him with the Alsatian club for another year.

This means that interested clubs, believed to include German Bundesliga side 1860 Munich (Ned Zelic's club), would have to pay a fee for his services.

Johan Boshkamp was appointed Dynamo Tbilisi new head coach on Wednesday following Murtaz Khurtsilava's resignation last weekend.

Georgian Football Federation president Merab Zhordania told AFP Boshkamp will be also appointed as the Georgian national team head coach soon.

Boshkamp will officially start his Dynamo Tbilisi coaching career on May 23 after the finishing match of the current Georgian championship but he has already been introduced to the team.

A foreign referee was in charge of a Romanian league match on Sunday for the first time since 1971. German Edgar Steinborn controlled the big Bucharest derby between Dinamo and Rapid — a decision reached by the Romanian Soccer Federation on Wednesday in response to charges of biased officiating. Steinborn's linesmen were also Germans.

The Romanian game has been rocked by allegations of biased or inept refereeing. The most notorious instance occurred last year when Steaua claimed their sixth consecutive championship with a controversial goal.

Federation officials have long resisted calls to draft in foreign referees to ensure a modicum of fair play, particularly in key matches involving Bucharest sides.



Compiled by

EUROPE

REAL HORROR WEEK AT MADRID

RC Lens won the first cup of their 90-year history when they beat Metz 1-0 in the French League Cup final.

Midfielder Daniel Moreira blasted home the winner in the 56th minute to secure reigning league champions Lens a UEFA Cup berth next season.

"I never doubted we could do it. I'm happy for all the fans who came here to back us. They deserved it," coach Daniel Leclercq said, pointing at the cheering Lens fans while brandishing the cup.

"We wanted it so much...This is a great win."

Lens had the first clear chance when striker Pascal Nouma hit a powerful shot from inside the box and forced Metz goalkeeper Lionel Letizi to make a dramatic save in the dying seconds of the first half.

International winger Tony Vairelles, overlooked by coach Roger Lemerre for the national team, showed a glimpse of his best form with a close-range shot saved by Letizi five minutes into the second half.

But the Metz goalkeeper was powerless to deny the next move set up by midfielder Cyril Rool.

Rool passed the ball to Moreira, who took it inside the box and unleashed a tremendous blast from the left into the far corner of Letizi's net.

Metz, winners of the trophy in 1996, had a great chance to equalise six minutes from time but midfielder Ludovic Asuar's shot from 18 metres was saved by goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz.

"It took some time to clinch this trophy but we did it and it's really good," Vairelles said.

"I had a chance to score but the main thing is not who is the scorer but that tonight we are the winners.

We had the guts for it."

Lens came close to a league and cup double last season, winning the league but losing 2-1 to Paris St Germain in the French Cup final.

"It was a fantastic goal by Moreira," Metz coach Joel Muller said.

"Lens were physically stronger and they have gained remarkable experience from their European Cup ties which was obvious tonight.

"They knew better how to deal with this kind of match. We were too weak up front. The result is logical."

Meanwhile, Real Madrid suffered a 3-2 defeat at Real Sociedad to end a shocking week for the reigning European champions.

After a few days when their off-the-field problems had dominated the headlines, with Croatian striker Davor Suker being suspended without pay, Real looked out of sorts from the opening whistle and went 2-0 down shortly before half-time.

They pulled back to 2-2 but fell to a Darko Kovacevic goal in the 75th minute. Real Madrid remain in fourth place in the Spanish first division, with 56 points from 33 games.

Real were tormented down their right wing for much of the first half and it was their weakness down this flank, with Christian Panucci and Clarence Seedorf consistently failing to pick up their men, that lead to the first goal after 31 minutes.

Kovacevic was unmarked and managed to head the ball across the face of the Real Madrid goal for Inigo Idiakez to head past the stranded Bodo Illgner.

Real Madrid had plenty to complain about the second goal, three minutes into first half injury time.

Portuguese international Ricardo Sa Pinto was apparently fouled in the box by Roberto Carlos and Francisco De Pedro converted from the spot.

Television replays cleared showed that there had been no contact between the two main protagonists.

However the Brazilian defender gained a modicum of revenge little more than a minute after the break.

His cross from the left found Jose Maria Gutierrez free in front of the goal and he blasted the ball past goalkeeper Alberto Lopez. It was Guti's first league goal this season.

Six minutes later Real Madrid got back on equal terms from a Savio penalty after Predrag Mijatovic had been clumsily tackled by Loren Juarros. However, it was to be a brief respite.

Sa Pinto had a shot cleared off the line by Illgner on the hour and then after 75 minutes Kovacevic again used his head to embarrass Real Madrid. He darted in to connect with an Aitor Lopez Rekarte cross from the right to score.

There were no surprises in Hungary as the powerful MTK Budapest clinched their 21st Hungarian championship with a 2-0 win over Gazszer on Saturday.

First half goals by Bela Illes and Ferenc Orosz secured the three points, and the title, for MTK who lead the first division by 16 points with five games remaining.

MTK began the season as favourites and since the winter break have never looked in danger of letting their lead slip.

Illes, the leading goalscorer in Hungary with 20 goals, has been the key player for MTK, ably assisted by his midfield partner for both MTK and the national team, Gabor Halmai.

"Even though this is the third title I have won in my career you can never get used to the feeling," said Halmai after Saturday's win. MTK last won the title in 1997.

MTK face an uncertain future with club officials in preliminary merger talks with Budapest rivals Ujpest, who lie third behind Ferencvaros.

And in Germany, Bayer Leverkusen kept European Cup finalists Bayern Munich waiting for their 15th German title by beating VfL Bochum 2-0.

Leverkusen, now almost certain of holding on to second place and the ticket to the Champions' League that goes with it, moved to within nine points of the leaders.

Germany striker Ulf Kirsten put Leverkusen ahead in the 21st minute, collecting a Robert Kovac pass with his back to the goal before turning to score.

Kirsten now has 18 goals, one less than Hertha striker Michael Preetz, and could yet end the season as the Bundesliga's top scorer for the third season in succession.

The home side wasted several clear chances before American Frankie Hejduk, who joined them during the winter break, sealed their win in the 64th minute.



Suker drives away after being told of his fate by Real Madrid

The Bayern players watched the Leverkusen match on television in their training camp. After the final whistle, they went out on the pitch to train for Sunday's match.

Bayern are seeking to become the first German club to win the European Cup, and the domestic league and Cup in one season.

They face Manchester United in the European



Real's Roberto Carlos...his foul caused the second goal, from the penalty, for Sociedad.

Cup final on May 26 in Barcelona and Werder Bremen in the German Cup final on June 12 in Berlin.

Borussia Dortmund rose one place to fourth with a 1-0 win over last year's champions Kaiserslautern.

Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat scored the winner from close range in the 11th minute.

Both Dortmund and fifth-placed Kaiserslautern should play in Europe next season.

SC Freiburg, who re-joined the first division this season, made sure they would remain in the top flight by beating bottom side Borussia

Moenchengladbach 2-1.

Slovenian midfielder Miran Pavlin scored the winner four minutes from time to lift Freiburg one place to 11th.

Freiburg opened the scoring in the 42nd minute through Tunisian midfielder Zoubaier Baya. Midfielder Markus Hausweiler levelled with a header in the 67th minute for Moenchengladbach, who are already relegated for the first time since they were promoted in 1965.

"Our goal was to remain in the first division and now we're going to celebrate," said Freiburg captain Ralf Kohl. "We have a lot of young players and we should be stronger next season."

APOEL Nicosia won the Cyprus cup on Saturday with two late goals, depriving league champions Anorthosis Famagusta of the double.

In a major upset APOEL's Brazilian forward Veridiano Marcello scored two goals in the last 15 minutes, one from the penalty spot, to seal a 2-0 win.

Anorthosis were the better side for the first 75 minutes of the game, even when reduced to 10 men in the 50th minute after Vladan Domic earned a second yellow card for a foul.

The Famagusta team, which last week clinched the Cyprus league title, missed several good scoring chances.

APOEL struck lucky in their first proper attack in the 75th minute when Marcello slammed the ball into the net to score a disputed goal that Anorthosis claimed was offside.

Marcello was in the box again 10 minutes later and was awarded a penalty when the Anorthosis goalkeeper brought him down.

A large police force was in place to keep order among the 25,000 spectators. Trouble was limited to the pitch where several players of both teams intermittently traded punches.

UK

BATES AND WENGER IN
SLANGING MATCH

Ken Bates last night took another swipe at Arsene Wenger in the escalating war of words over Chelsea's wage bill.

The Chelsea chairman chuckled mischievously when told of the Arsenal manager's response to the threat of legal action when Wenger said Chelsea were "cheating football" for paying their players 26.4million a year.

Bates warned Wenger he would consult his lawyers but the Arsenal manager hit back, saying: "He must be a sensitive boy."

A report from accountant Deloitte & Touche put Chelsea top of the pay league, but the Bates claims that the figures included hundreds of members of staff at Chelsea village as well as his players.

He said: "Yes, Mr Wenger is perfectly correct. I am a very very sensitive soul — I thought everybody knew that. I get hurt very easily and so does my lawyer."

Bates is also considering suing Gerry Boon from Deloitte & Touche.

Everton hard man Olivier Dacourt has lambasted his teammates at Everton, claiming he will quit the club.

Dacourt also angrily accused Everton of breaking promises to spend pounds 20m on new players to make the club great again.

"There is no atmosphere among the squad, and we don't have meals together.

"I will probably go back to France this summer. When I came over, Everton told me that they were going to become a very big club once again. My ambition is to win trophies."

So why did he join Everton?



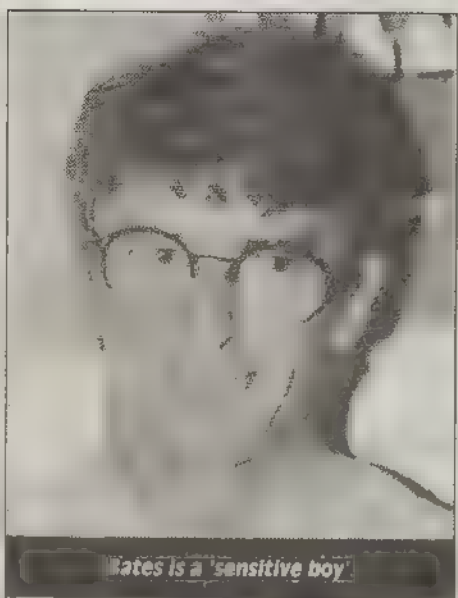
Temuri Ketsabalia has been promised a job at Newcastle next season by boss Ruud Gullit.

The bald-headed Georgian striker feared he would be on his bike following the return of fit-again Duncan Ferguson.

Ketsabalia was also worried that he might not meet work permit requirements on a new deal.

But Gullit yesterday reassured fans' favourite Ketsabalia that he is in his plans for the FA Cup Final — and beyond.

"He will be here next season and he has no need to worry about a work permit," said the Newcastle boss. "I



Bates is a 'sensitive boy'

am very happy with him. Just because Duncan is now fit doesn't mean he has no chance at the club."

Ketsabalia has scored eight goals in 31 League and cup appearances this season and looked threatening when he came on for Ferguson against Middlesbrough last weekend.

Although he played in last season's final he did not expect to be still at the club.

"He would be perfect one day, but not the next and it made me wonder," said Gullit. "All I want from him is consistency and he's showing that now."

Meanwhile, two Newcastle defenders have accepted that their days at St James's Park are over. Philippe Albert does not expect to play any part in Newcastle's build-up to the Wembley date with Manchester United.

And former England international Stuart Pearce expects to be given a free by Gullit in the summer.

Belgian star Albert is so out in the cold on Tyneside that he is not even training at the club following his return from a loan spell with Kevin Keegan's Fulham.

"If Newcastle had 12 injuries and three suspensions I know I would still not have a chance of playing against Manchester United at Wembley," he said.

"But I suppose I could always drive the team coach for them."

Gullit confirmed yesterday that the 31-year-old defender was not in his plans.

Rookie defender David Beherall has more chance of playing at Wembley than Albert or Pearce.

"I have to look to the future," Gullit said. "If I had a defensive crisis it would be possible to involve him again. But I have not thought about it."

Pearce, who has not started a Premiership game this year, admitted yesterday: "I think I will be released. I thought I probably had a little bit more to offer the club."

The former Nottingham Forest hard man plans to arrange a meeting with Gullit this week for the final verdict. And he said: "As soon as I know, I can crack on and decide what's in the future for me. At the moment, I have no idea what I will be doing next season."

He has inevitably been linked with the vacancy at the City Ground following the departure of Ron Atkinson.

Now 37, Pearce made his final appearance in a Newcastle shirt last night when he played for the reserves against Blyth in the Northumberland Cup final.

German Ralf Kiedel and French keeper Lionel Perez will also play their last games before being freed in the summer.

ROY'S PEACHY KEANE
WHEN IT COMES TO SALARY

This issue of money just keeps cropping up, with Roy Keane powering on towards the richest ever contract in Manchester United history.

The club's tough pay code has been pushed to its most lucrative ever limit following boss Alex Ferguson's new pounds 4.5m three-year deal.

Now Keane's negotiators will be looking for around pounds 10m over a five-year contract when they hold talks in four weeks.

Joining George Graham's 'winning team' is Israeli left back Najuan Grayeb, in a pounds 1.3million deal — despite an attempted airport hijack by Aston Villa.

Spurs boss Graham got his man from Hapoel Haifa after Villa coach Ross MacLaren tried to talk Grayeb into moving to his club at Heathrow.

Premiership referees and their assistants will get 'safe cars' next season to ferry them to and from games.

The move is timely, given the attack on ref Robert Harris's car recently after West Ham's controversial game against Leeds.

Harris, who had sent off three West Ham players,



Keane is angling for a massive increase in pay

was allegedly confronted by Hammers fans at traffic lights near Upton Park after the game and had to drive away quickly to escape.

However, the proposal has actually been in the planning stages since March. From next season, referees will stay overnight at a hotel near the following day's match venue before meeting up with their two assistants as well as the fourth official in the morning.

They will then be able to discuss tactics and compare notes before being driven to the ground together well before kick-off to inspect the pitch and possibly meet club officials, including managers or players.

After the game, the four officials would then be taken back to the hotel in safety to discuss the match.

West Ham striker Ian Wright could miss the start of next season through suspension after he was charged with misconduct by the Football Association. He has 10 days to respond to the charge.

BRADFORD FIRE: WE
REMEMBER THE DEAD

By Mark Fowler

Fourteen years ago to the day (May 11th 1985) 11,076 supporters turned up to see Bradford City play Lincoln City in an English league match.

56 of those people never made it home. In addition to the horrific death toll, nearly 200 people were injured when the main stand at Valley Parade caught fire. Only an hour or so earlier those same fans had proudly watched their team lift the old third division championship trophy.

What should have been a rare day of celebration for Bradford City fans quickly turned into disaster.

It is thought the blaze started when a dropped cigarette caused accumulated rubbish under the grandstand to catch fire. A supporter saw wisps of smoke coming up from 'G' block — five minutes later the whole stand was ablaze.

Many fans were trapped when they ran to the back of the stand, only to find the gates locked.

The images shocked the world, as the devastation became apparent. People wandered about on the pitch while players looked for their loved ones, and the game itself was quickly abandoned.

In the aftermath of the fire accusations were leveled and fingers pointed.

The club was blamed as a whole, then both the chairman and club secretary.

It transpired the club had received a letter from the FA earlier in the season suggesting they clean the rubbish from under the stand, but it was never done.

In another piece of irony, the roof of the main stand had been due for demolition the very next day.

New recommendations brought in saw the clubs, especially those in the lower divisions, forced into improving safety and comfort for fans. That it took the loss of life to do that is particularly galling.

Spare a thought for the victims and their families on May 11, and next time you hear a remark about soccer meaning more than life and death — it doesn't.

UK WITH CRAZY CRAIG WILSON



Sometimes truth is far far stranger than fiction, and this week we received a call from our Scottish correspondent, Robertson McStuart, a Dundee fan. 'A Serbian warlord wants to buy my football team', he screamed down the telephone. And he went on to tell us his bizarre story.

"When Dundee were promoted to the Scottish Premier League, they gave assurances that their ground would be redeveloped as a 10,000 all-seater stadium by the

start of the 1999-2000 season. Otherwise they'd be relegated.

"We knew things weren't right when we found out at Christmas he was looking for amalgamation with our rivals Dundee United. It was obviously a panic measure. The money for the redevelopment just wasn't

there. There was outrage among fans, and various money raising ideas went around, when suddenly this Serbian bloke turned up," says McStuart.

Who was this Serbian bloke? His name was Giovanni di Stefano. He sent his son to a Scottish private school, where introduced to the Dark Blues by a chum, di Stef Junior became a bit of a fan. Knowing of Dundee's plight, the lad got on the blower to Pops and suggested he cough up £800,000 to

pay for a new stand at Dens Park.

"Dundee are a very healthy organisation with a hundred years of history and a large supporter base," said footy fan Giovanni. "I believe that the club could have a place next year in one of the European championships."

All well and good you might think. Where's the problem? Well, di Stefano earned several of his millions through Italo-Yugoslav Airlines, and as vice-president of Obilic FC, a club owned by his friend Zeljko Raznatovic-better known as Arkan. Scottish tabloids even claim that di Stefano served as a general in Arkan's unit during the Bosnian war.

Through the airline, di Stefano was also the sales agent in Yugoslavia for Iraqi Airways, and had a close working relationship with Saddam Hussein. Oh boy!

It gets worse. Di Stefano, who is secretary of the fascist Partito Nazionale Italiano, and plans to stand at the forthcoming European elections, recently praised

Mussolini, saying 'His only mistake was to join Hitler.' Having also done business with Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Giovanni and his mates are unlikely to be invited to tea at Number 10.

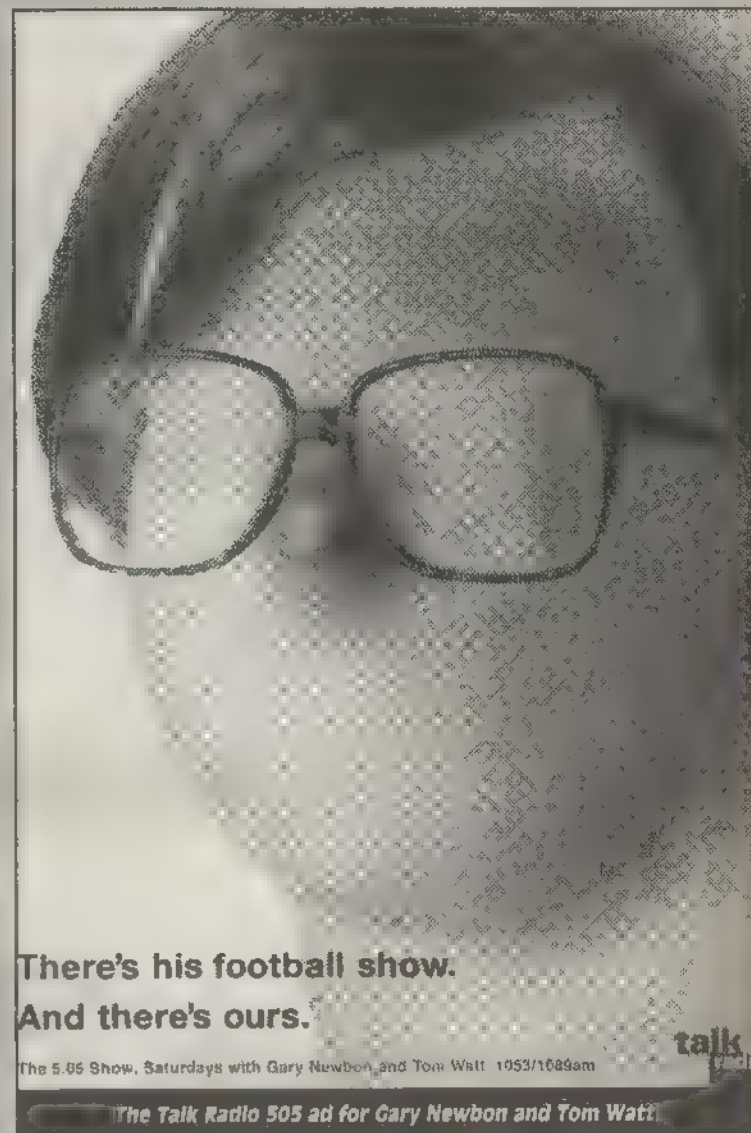
"Most of the press has come from the west coast papers" says McStuart. "They hate Dundee for having two teams and would like to see one of them go out of business".

Many of the headlines seem to back this up. Di Stefano is not for instance Serbian, but Anglo-Italian,

"The Scottish Premier League were not happy with di Stefano," says McStuart.

"But if you read between the lines, you get the feeling that though he's said it's all off, he'll be back. I'd be perfectly happy. I was sitting around getting depressed that there would be no more Dundee. It seems ridiculous, but football rarely lends itself to logic."

There's a different kind of war going on over the English airwaves right now. The 606 Show is presented by former Tory MP



There's his football show.
And there's ours.

The 5.05 Show, Saturdays with Gary Newbon and Tom Watt 1053/1089am

The Talk Radio 505 ad for Gary Newbon and Tom Watt

and there is still little proof that his association with Arkan or Saddam are anything more than business links. But it's enough for the tabloids.

Fans of the beleaguered club are keen to see its survival, and have stood by club officials who have said "We intend to continue dealing with Mr. di Stefano. What we are looking for here is a 10% investment in the club, not a takeover."

For the moment the deal seems to be off. Tony Blair is one of NATO's more rabid leaders, and the Scots have political issues of their own to sort out in the form of devolution from Parliament in London. A deadline for di Stefano to take up his option on shares passed this week, and in the current political climate Dundee have found funding elsewhere.

David Mellor.

You may remember him as the bespectacled Sports Minister found wearing his Chelsea guernsey during bedroom athletic sessions with a glamorous 'model'.

Over on Talk Radio there's the 505 Show, presented by Tom Watt — the artist formerly known as Lofty from Eastenders.

Both shows feature phone-in slots from fans returning from away games, one hand on the mobile, the other negotiating the M1 motorway, normally blaming the referee for another 'narrow' 4-1 defeat. While both shows are popular, there's no love lost between the presenters of the dueling programmes. A recent advert from the British papers bears testimony to the high regard in which Mellor is held by his competitors. Ooh-er!?

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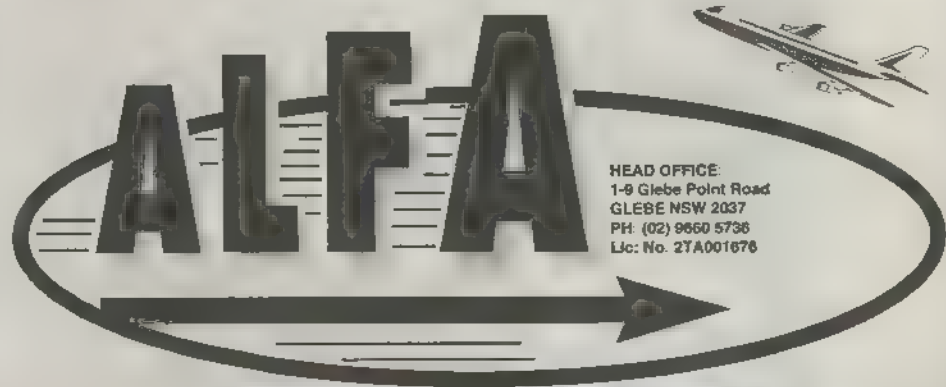
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UK

Soccer Weekly

'SHERWOOD NEARLY BROKE MY LEG', VIEIRA

Arsenal's gutsy midfielder Patrick Vieira has blasted Spurs' Tim Sherwood for the wild challenge that he claims could have broken his leg. The Gunners' midfield star was on the receiving end of a dreadful Sherwood challenge early in the second half of last Wednesday night's 3-1 victory at White Hart Lane.

Vieira thought the tackle could have ended his career: "It was a terrible tackle and I am very upset with him for it. I am really sorry for Tottenham that they have a player like that. He could have broken my leg. For me he is just a bad player."

"You should not do that to another professional. It was a tackle over the top and it was very dangerous. He also tried to elbow me and that was done right in front of the referee, but for some reason nothing was done."

"What frustrates me is if I had done that, I would have been sent off, I am sure of that."

The Frenchman had to be separated from the Spurs midfielder at the final whistle. The pair had clashed repeatedly throughout the game following Sherwood's challenge.

But everything else went brilliantly for the Gunners on the night and the Frenchman now believes they are destined to win the title again.

And he feels that the leadership of Tony Adams is the key to Arsenal's spectacular run that has seen them installed as the bookmakers' favourites for the championship.

"At the back we were very solid and in Tony Adams we have a fantastic captain," he said.

"He is the best in the league in his position."

"We frustrates me is if I had done that, I would have been sent off, I am sure of that."

Patrick Vieira, Arsenal

There is a real feeling among the players that we can win the title again. There is great confidence and spirit in the side. Now we must try to build on this result. We know we now have a very tough match at Leeds.

"We must try to do the same again. But this is a remarkable team because we never give up."

The bad news for Arsenal is that Ray Parlour is set to miss the crucial last two games of their title challenge. Manager Arsene Wenger was gloomy about Parlour's prospects after he suffered a groin strain in the victory at Tottenham.

Parlour is undergoing intensive treatment in a bid to be fit for the trip to Leeds and the final match at home against Aston Villa on Sunday week.

Wenger said: "It looks like we will have to do without Ray for the run-in."

Arsenal's spokeswoman Amanda Docherty said: "It is one of those injuries that will take time to assess."

"Things will become much clearer over the weekend as the extent of these sort of things always take time to become clear."

Midfielder Parlour (left) will be sorely missed if he is ruled out of the last stages of the championship race.



GIVE DENNIS A CHANCE, PLEAS MAN UTD



Man Utd wants David Elleray to admit that he was wrong in sending off Dennis Irwin.

United have yet to officially ask Elleray to look again at the booking, given for dissent.

But it is understood that if Elleray admits he a royal stuff up of the decision, then the FA could order an amnesty on the strength of TV evidence which showed that Irwin was harshly treated.

Then Irwin would be able to play in what would probably be his final Wembley appearance on May 22.

Irwin, 33, was devastated by the 75th-minute decision to show him yellow for running the ball out of play and then making a final pass to Andy Cole.

Irwin said: "I couldn't see the linesman's flag because he was behind me. I didn't even boot the ball away after I played on. I just flicked it to Andy to keep the move going."

One hopes that sense will prevail and this player, who has had a practically unblemished career with his club, will receive some justice from the powers that be.

Manchester United wants a reversal of a decision by David Elleray to send-off Dennis Irwin, in order to allow the Red Devils' defender's Wembley dream to come true.

Irwin suffered the first sending off of his career for a second bookable offence against Liverpool midweek. It means he is ruled out of the FA Cup Final with Newcastle.

DRAGON FOR THE KINGDOM OF THE KOP

Liverpool have lined up Colombian World Cup keeper Farid Mondragon to replace out-of-favour David James. Mondragon is currently on loan to Real Zaragoza but has been dropped since informing the Spanish club that he will not sign once his loan term is completed.

The giant keeper has been on Merseyside talking terms with Reds boss Gerard Houllier.

Houllier is believed to have been given two options: pay 400,000 for a season-long loan term or 2.5m to buy Mondragon outright.

Meanwhile, Liverpool midfielder Danny Murphy will not be part of the Anfield summer clear-out after impressing Houllier during his loan spell at Crewe.

The 22-year-old has hardly had a look-in since the Frenchman took over and was one of the favourites for the chop once Houllier agreed to let him see the season out with Crewe.

But Crewe boss Dario Gradi has revealed Murphy will be welcomed back with open arms and told he has a future with the Reds although he is not sure whether the former England Under-21 star wants to stay.

Gradi said: "They do want him to stay with them and you don't leave a big club like Liverpool easily."

"Danny will certainly be going back to Liverpool and I'm sure he will assess his future before deciding his next move."

Chelsea star Gianfranco Zola is poised to quit football at the end of next season, according to media reports. The brilliant Italian forward is considering hanging up his boots after he fulfils his burning ambition of playing for Chelsea in the Champions' League.

Zola confirmed: "Next season might be my last."

"I will be 34 at the end of it and I will have to consider my strength and physical condition."

"I'm fitter than Gianluca Vialli at the moment but by the end of next season I will have to make a decision on my future."

"It's very important for me to give my best. If I can't give my best for the team then that will be the moment to give up."

Zola has confessed to fatigue after playing in all of Chelsea's Premier games this season. Next term the schedule will stiffen because of Chelsea's qualification for the Champions' League.

"Considering that I'm 32 I think I've handled it okay this season," he said.

"But there have been moments when I wished we had fresher players coming in."

"There will be more games next year with the Champions' League and hopefully we will have some new players."

"With luck they can help us to handle the growing number of games."

And the Mark Goldberg saga continues. He is facing a High Court bankruptcy order which could force him out of Crystal Palace by the time you read this.

Former Palace owner Ron Noades is taking Goldberg to court over non-payment of a pounds 4.5million loan.

Noades, who sold the Selhurst Park club in an ill-fated pounds 23million deal last summer, attacked Goldberg.

He said: "The best thing for Palace is to remove him. They need to re-organise themselves. I don't think Palace can survive with Mark Goldberg."

A definitive statement if ever.



Farid Mondragon at the France 98 World Cup playing for Colombia.

Compiled and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

Premier League highlights

DERBY V COVENTRY

Coventry made sure of their top-flight status on Saturday, playing out a dour goalless draw with Derby County at Pride Park.

The Sky Blues will now see in the new millennium as a premiership club, having been in the top flight since 1967-68 - an unbroken run bettered only by Arsenal, Everton and Liverpool.

The Highfield Road faithful had little to rejoice about throughout the course of this match, however.

Derby, apart from the occasional flash of invention from Dean Sturridge, were unimpressive, but Coventry were woeful for much of the match, Gary McAllister's promptings from midfield failing to create a goal.

Even Sky Blues boss Strachan, normally so demonstrative on the touchline, seemed subdued.

Derby goalkeeper Mart Poom had few anxious moments. He did flap at a McAllister cross, but Noel Whelan could not get his head to the ball at the back post, while the striker wasted a superb opportunity when he miskicked 20 yards out with only Poom to beat.

Whelan later saw his chip comfortably saved by the Estonian as he proved Coventry's most likely source of a goal.

If either side deserved victory, it was Derby, but

they too hardly covered themselves in glory during a match which bore all the hallmarks of a tame end-of-season affair.

Mikkel Beck and Paulo Wanchope both fired over from six yards after good work from the lively Dean Sturridge, while Magnus Hedman had to deny Darryl Powell at the start of the first half and also tipped the ball over after Paul Telfer inadvertently headed Stefano Eranio's free-kick goalwards.

The Rams, with their three forwards occasionally linking well, were unfortunate not to lead early on but time and again after the interval their attacks floundered due to the lack of a penetrating final ball.

Adam Murray, a 17-year-old midfielder who came off the bench at the break, had their best effort of the second half, letting fly with a 15-yard volley from which Hedman produced the save of the match, flinging himself to his right and palming the ball away.

Kevin Harper appeared for the final 12 minutes and almost won the game for Derby, Sturridge just inches away from getting a touch to the Scot's low cross as he slid in at the far post.

Gary Breen then made a last-ditch tackle to keep out Horacio Carbonari's late effort with Hedman stranded and the Rams' final home game of the season finished goalless.

EVERTON V WEST HAM

Everton took full advantage of an awful West Ham performance on Saturday, ensuring their own survival and providing a goal feast for their fans with a 6-0 victory at Goodison Park.

Keyin Campbell, the on-loan superhero, grabbed a hat-trick to make his tally nine in seven games as Everton cruised to a comprehensive victory in their last home game of a traumatic season.

It will be a relief for Everton fans not to have to endure a nerve-racking last-day battle to stay in the top flight, although the financial state of the club remains a cause for concern.

For now though, the fans can celebrate after seeing their team dismantle a West Ham side who looked in need of a stewards' enquiry after this shocking display.

Everton needed one point to ensure premiership safety, and the spoils were handed over by a side who still looked in shock after the shambles of the previous week when they had three players sent off.

West Ham started well, fizzing passes around and making Everton work for their possession. Once the first goal went in after 14 minutes however, the Hammers seemed to lose interest.

That opening goal came from Campbell, who received his Carling player-of-the-month award before the game. He has almost single-handedly scored the goals to save Everton from the drop and he rapped in another in a six-yard box scramble.

Ten minutes later, the home side doubled their lead

when Steve Lomas was judged to have pushed over Scott Gemmill in the box. It looked a harsh decision, and he angrily rounded on the Everton man, clearly accusing him of diving.

Lomas was dragged away by colleagues, and Michael Ball drilled home the spot-kick.

The problem for West Ham was compounded in the 38th minute when Don Hutchison drove home the third. The former Hammer had helped create the opening, and when Francis Jeffers miscued his shot, Hutchison was on hand to blast past Shaka Hislop.

West Ham hardly improved after the break, and soon found themselves four down.

Hutchison and Gemmill exchanged passes through a non-existent Hammers midfield, and the move ended with Hutchison's pass putting Campbell in to chip over the exposed Hislop.

Lomas had been pushed into midfield by now from his central defensive role to give some backbone to a spineless West Ham side, but there was no way back for the Londoners.

Campbell completed his hat-trick after 76 minutes when he raced into the box onto another Hutchison pass to crack the ball home off the inside of a post.

Francis Jeffers grabbed the sixth with three minutes to go, flicking the ball home at the near post.

From then on it was party time, and 40,000 celebrated as their team did a lap of honour.

LEICESTER V NEWCASTLE

Wembley-bound Newcastle crashed to a 2-0 defeat at Filbert on Saturday, courtesy of Martin O'Neill's Leicester City.

The Foxes, determined to bounce back after losing their last two games, set off at a quick tempo, encouraged by some hesitant Newcastle defending.

Steve Guppy caused panic in the Magpies penalty area with a series of teasing left-wing crosses, but it was a right-wing move which led to the 20th-minute corner that put the home team ahead.

Muzzy Izzet, playing up front alongside Tony Cottee, found Robbie Savage on the wing, and his cross was bundled behind by the visitors as Cottee lurked dangerously.

Stefan Oakes, making his first start for Leicester, swung the kick onto the head of his skipper Matt Elliott and Steve Harper saved with his legs before Izzet squeezed the rebound through a crowded goalmouth.

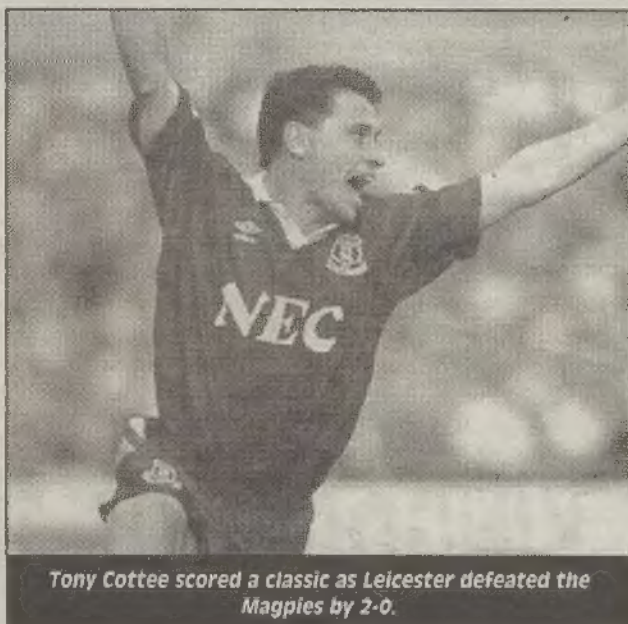
Alan Shearer then fired a warning with a fierce 30-yard drive which had Pegguy Arphexad scampering anxiously across his goalline to tip the ball over the bar.

Theo Zagorakis came off the bench for Charlie Miller in the 31st minute, making an immediate impact. With his first touch, he collected a Neil Lennon pass and with his second stung the palms of Harper with a ferocious long-range drive.

There were signs of Gullit's team creaking into life as Robert Lee volleyed high over after a short spell of pressure, and Frank Sinclair's timely clearance prevented Duncan Ferguson from latching onto a Shearer cross.

However, the Geordies were rocked by a Cottee classic four minutes before the break.

The veteran goal-poacher accepted a neat ball from



Tony Cottee scored a classic as Leicester defeated the Magpies by 2-0.

Guppy on the left, cut inside and curled an unstoppable right-foot shot beyond the diving Harper.

Newcastle played with more purpose after the break, and Nikos Dabizas almost forced the ball home following a corner.

The home side continually threatened on the counter. Cottee flung himself at a Savage cross, forcing a good save from Harper, and Guppy lashed a half-chance over the bar after Izzet had woven an intricate path into the Newcastle area.

Oakes almost scored a debut goal when he traded passes with Izzet and unleashed a thunderbolt which whistled just wide of Harper's right-hand post.

Zagorakis fired a long-range effort just over and was denied by the legs of Harper in the closing stages.

Ketsbaia forced saves from

Arphexad, Gary Speed went close, Shearer headed wide, and Dabizas somehow missed from beneath the bar as Gullit's men rallied, but it was to no avail and Leicester held on for the points.



SHEFF. WED V LIVERPOOL

Sheffield Wednesday secured their premiership status on Saturday with a 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Hillsborough.

The home side might have won more comfortably but for several misses by Petter Rudi in an exciting first period.

The first came in the opening minute, when Friedel denied the Norwegian as he raced through onto Andy Booth's header.

At the other end, Pavel Srnicek made excellent early stops from Oyvind Leonhardsen and Patrik Berger.

Rudi was again to blame for letting Liverpool off the hook in the 12th minute when Steve Staunton outpaced the midfielder to head the ball back to Friedel.

Friedel then almost became provider when his long punt caught the Owls defence napping. Srnicek was forced to race off his line as Karl-Heinz Riedle rose to claim the ball.

However, the goalkeeper's clearance found only Leonhardsen who laid the ball off to Berger but he sliced his shot from the edge of the area.

Play immediately switched to the other end of the pitch and a Danny Sonner corner found Peter Atherton at the far post.

The Wednesday captain played the ball across the Liverpool six-yard box but striker Booth was unable to connect with a diving header.

A Carbone free-kick flew just over in the 31st minute after Dominic Matteo had been penalised for a push on Booth.

Six minutes later, Rudi squandered the best chance of the half when Booth flicked an Atherton throw-in into the area. Rudi appeared to have timed his run perfectly but blazed the ball over from just 10 yards.

In first half injury time, Carbone found himself unmarked from a Sonner long pass but Friedel produced a great save to deny the Italian.

The game deteriorated in the second period, only a Berger effort from the edge of

the area in the 52nd minute threatening a goal.

The two sides seemed to have lost interest in the game as they played out their penultimate match of the season.

Liverpool even replaced Berger, who had appeared to be their only hope of a second half goal, with David Thompson in the 67th minute.

Three minutes from time however, the home side plundered an unlikely winner. Richard Cresswell rose above the Liverpool defence to score his first goal for the club and ensure that the Owls would still be playing with the cream of the country next season.



Andy Booth played well as Sheffield Wednesday snatched a surprise victory over Liverpool.

Compiled and written by

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UK

Premier League Highlights

BLACKBURN V FOREST

Relegated Nottingham Forest dealt Blackburn Rovers' survival hopes a crushing blow on Saturday, emerging from Ewood Park with a 2-1 victory and leaving the home side in the unenviable position of having to beat Manchester United to retain their premiership status.

Rovers manager Brian Kidd was again hampered by injuries, Jason McAteer and Ashley Ward the latest additions to the crocked list.

Rovers owner Jack Walker did his bit to help and before kick-off he came on to the pitch to appeal to the home fans to get behind the team. The supporters answered his rallying call only for them to be silenced when Forest opened the scoring on 11 minutes.

Rovers failed to clear a corner and Hugo Porfirio squared the ball to Dougie Freedman, just inside the Rovers area, the striker duly hooking home his 12th goal of the season.

Back came Blackburn and Crossley thwarted Damien Duff with a fine diving save to his right. Striker Kevin Gallacher then produced a moment of magic to haul Rovers back into the game on 25 minutes.

Keith Gillespie cut in from the right and found him just outside the Forest area, from where he chipped Crossley to perfection for his fifth goal of the campaign and his first in 1999.

Forest refused to lie down though, and Freedman continued to harass the Rovers defence, forcing two fine saves from John Filan.

Gallacher then went from hero to villain after he was hauled down by Steve Chettle, who was subsequently dismissed by referee Graham Poll. Gallacher stepped up to take the spot-kick himself, only for Crossley to touch his effort onto the post.

Lee Carsley had an effort cleared off the line and as tempers began to fray in first-half stoppage time, Jason Wilcox was somewhat fortunate to escape with a booking after he appeared to raise his fists to Porfirio, who was also shown the yellow card.

Rovers were dealt a crushing blow when Forest took the lead again in the 56th minute. Chris Bart-Williams played a one-two with Porfirio before beating Filan from just outside the area.

Ten-man Forest then easily managed to keep Blackburn at bay though, and only in the final 10 minutes did the home side

again threaten Crossley's goal, Gallacher heading over from Davies' cross and Darren Peacock driving over.

Forest substitute Bernard Allou almost added insult to injury when his deflected shot went just the wrong side of the post in 88th minute. There were no more goals however, and Rovers now find themselves staring at an unthinkable return to the first division.



Blackburn need to win their last two games to stay in the League, one of which is Man. United.

VILLA V CHARLTON

Charlton Athletic threw themselves a premiership lifeline at Villa Park on Saturday, taking the lead four times before emerging 4-3 victors over Aston Villa in a dramatic match.

The first half was a lacklustre affair. Villa played the more intricate football while Charlton were more direct, but neither side seemed able to create clear-cut goalscoring opportunities.

Mark Draper provided the first attempt on goal after two minutes when he drove over from 20 yards following good work from Paul Merson and Alan Wright.

Two minutes later, the relegation battlers took the lead. John Robinson crossed from the left and Gareth Barry, under pressure from Graham Stuart, could do no more than place a downward header past his own goalkeeper, Michael Oakes.

Ironically, the reverse fixture at The Valley earlier in the season was decided by a Richard Rufus own goal, and it was the same defender who gifted Villa the equaliser just three minutes later.

With seemingly no immediate looming danger, Rufus attempted a wild clearance across his own penalty area. The ball flew straight at Barry, who slotted home calmly from 18 yards past a stranded Petterson.

Barry, playing in midfield, then had two more chances to clinch a second goal before the half hour. First, he saw an effort from 18 yards deflected wide and then produced a fine left-footed drive which Andy Petterson did well to parry.

On 36 minutes, another defensive blunder had Villa in trouble again. Colin Calderwood underhit his backpass, but Oakes was alert to the danger and came quickly from his line to clear.

Seven minutes from half time, Clive Mendonca set up Stuart, but under pressure from several Villa defenders he could only slice his shot wide from the edge of the area.

The game improved dramatically after the break to finish as one of the thrillers of the season.

Charlton, sensing the desperation of their position, played with increased urgency from the start of the second period. Neil Redfearn twice fired well over as the visitors went in search of a vital second goal.

Their reward duly arrived on 56 minutes, a combination of their direct approach and a clinical finish. Petterson's long clearance was nodded on by Steve Jones for Mendonca, who collected the ball inside the penalty area and fired it into the top corner of the

Villa net.

The emotional roller coaster for the Charlton fans continued with another Villa equaliser ten minutes later. Substitute striker Darius Vassell's header sent Julian Joachim away and he placed a left-footed shot across Petterson and in at the far corner.

Two minutes later Charlton took the lead once again. Jones beat Gareth Southgate on the by-line before cutting the ball back into the path of Mendonca, who drove the ball straight at Oakes.

The goalkeeper could only parry the ball upwards and Robinson managed to send a looping header goalwards from close range. The ball crossed the line before Barry's hooked clearance, triggering wild celebrations among the visiting fans and players.

After further efforts from Barry and Redfearn, Villa equalised yet again through Joachim eleven minutes from time. In a goalmouth scramble following a corner, Villa substitute Ugo Ehiogu turned the ball goalwards where it was met just three yards out by Joachim, who fired it into the roof of the Charlton net.

Just a minute later, Charlton suffered the blow which might have seen them relegated on the day. With Joachim bearing down on goal once again, Petterson came from his line to produce a scything challenge on the striker, leaving the referee with no option but to bring out the red card.

With no specialist goalkeeper available, defender Steve Brown donned the goalkeeping jersey and gloves and immediately responded to the challenge with a magnificent save from the resulting free kick.

The ten men of Charlton were faced with no option but to continue attacking or be relegated, and they duly obliged.

Two minutes from time this epic encounter took its final twist. With Charlton substitute Martin Pringle through on goal, Watson brought him down from behind just outside the penalty area to become the second player dismissed in the space of eight minutes.

Charlton stood over the free kick knowing that this might be their final opportunity to prolong their stay in the top flight. Fullback Danny Mills duly obliged by taking a short pass and firing home a blistering drive from 19 yards for a 4-3 lead.

The goal sent the visiting support into raptures and after four agonising minutes of injury time they knew they would, at the very least, be taking their fight for survival to the final day of the season.



WIMBLEDON V S'TON

Matthew Le Tissier provided the inspiration as struggling Southampton grabbed a rare away win on Saturday, defeating Wimbledon 2-0 at Selhurst Park to keep alive their survival hopes.

However, Wimbledon pride themselves on their image as spoilers and were in no mood for favours despite their mid-table security.

Wimbledon striker Carl Cort enjoyed the best of the early opportunities, Saints' returning goalkeeper Paul Jones athletically deflecting his rasping goalbound drive.

Moments later Carl Leaburn was denied from six yards as Southampton manager David Jones, his job on the line, frantically waved and yelled from the dugout.

The visitors eventually found their feet but could not find the final killer ball to split Wimbledon's well drilled defence.

Visiting captain Jason Dodd was the creative force behind most of Southampton's attacking endeavour as Wimbledon allowed him free reign on the wing.

It was Hassan Kachoul, however, who came closest to breaking the deadlock when he unleashed a blistering drive that whistled past Neil Sullivan's post.

Southampton did finally manage to break down the Wimbledon resistance late in the first half, only for James Beattie's headed goal to be disallowed for offside.

The visitors continued their dominance after the break but their lightweight forward partnership rarely looked like breaking down the Dons.

It took the introduction of the talismanic Le Tissier to change the course of the match. Dropped by Jones at the beginning of the season Le Tissier produced a magnificent performance which may yet save his club.

Within three minutes of making his entrance, he whipped in a crucial pinpoint cross which Beattie headed home, to the relief of the visiting support.

Sensing safety, Southampton raised the tempo



Once again Matt Le Tissier caused havoc amongst the opposition. Must be his impending marriage to a Home and Away star!

further, with Le Tissier wreaking havoc in the Dons defence.

A series of dangerous in-swinging corners made Sullivan's life uncomfortable and seven minutes from time Kachoul steered the ball past the hapless Dons keeper to secure the points.



The scene after the clash at Villa Park. Charlton players were overwhelmed with delight after defeating Villa 4-3, keeping the team's hopes of Premiership survival alive.

Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne)
and John Markovski (Perth Glory).

